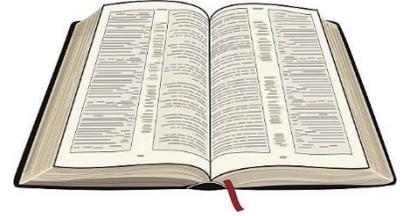




# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## August 2021

After this many of His disciples turned back and were not walking with Him anymore. So Jesus asked the Twelve, "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that You are the Holy One of God." (John 6:66-69 EHV)



Many today say that the church is dying. An alarming number of millennials (people born after 1980) list *None* when asked for church affiliation. Worship attendance across most denominations, WELS included, is down.

John Chapter 6, which marked a turning point in the earthly ministry of our Savior, provides perspective. Thousands had followed Him. People left homes and jobs to go where Jesus was, hoping that He'd make their earthly lives easy. "He stills storms and fills stomachs in an instant! This Jesus is our ticket to a wonderful life!"

But when Jesus told those thousands that His mission was to save them from hell forever and *not* to make their bodily lives more comfortable, most of those thousands left Jesus. Would we say that Jesus was a failure, that the Church of which He is the Head — and remains the Head to this day — is dying?

Christ's Church will never die. Christ's Word will never pass away. Christ's promises and work guarantee it!

What people observe about churches failing today is the result of adopting the same attitude those thousands had nearly two thousand years ago. The reason that church attendance and participation in church activities is down is not a new reason. People still want what makes them feel good, makes their bank account fuller, makes their lives more comfortable. Since the true teaching of God's unchanging Word doesn't do that, too many people walk away from that and go looking for good feelings or big money or easy living.

Most of those people think they are walking away from nothing more than an earthly organization that they are free to be part of – or not — without any big difference in their lives. It's much more serious than that. It's a matter of heaven and hell! Where else do we go? "Lord, You have the words of eternal life!"

Today is the day God has given us to rededicate ourselves to hearing His Word regularly. We take to heart what the Savior Himself says so pointedly: "Whoever belongs to God listens to what God says. The reason you do not listen is that you do not belong to God." (John 8:47) What do our priorities in life say about to whom we belong? When the slower pace of summer gives way to a more structured schedule in about a month, we will make hearing and studying the Word faithfully our top priority? What else in life is more important?!?

Christ's Church, the group of all who trust in Him as "the Holy One of God" who pays the penalty for every sin in our place, will never die. Christ's Word, His message that we are sinners who deserve damnation and that we are sinners who are redeemed by His blood, will never pass away.

You and I are part of that Church and are built up by that Word of truth. We will get as much of that Word as we can. We will be as active in Christ's Church as we can. We will rededicate ourselves to Him and His Word both to be blessed by our Savior and to be a blessing to others.

Pastor Voss



**OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE** continues. There is one Sunday service at **9:00 AM**. Most weeks there will be a **Thursday evening service at 7:00** which will be the same as the following Sunday's service. This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.

**OUTDOOR SERVICES** The Board of Elders in early August will discuss whether it is beneficial, given the number of mosquitos in our area, to have outdoor services on August 22 and September 26. **Next week's bulletin will announce the board's decision.**

**SINGING THE LITURGY / HYMNSoft VOLUNTEERS** Starting in July, we will resume singing the liturgy when an organist is playing for the service. **However, we need more HymnSoft volunteers before we will sing the liturgy at services when HymnSoft volunteers are serving.** All that is required is to press the spacebar on the computer when music is to be played. No set up of the program or adjustments to the organ are done by our volunteers.

Speak to Laurie Voss to arrange a time to see for yourself how simple it is to run the program. If you wish to become a HymnSoft volunteer, please speak to Pastor Voss.



**REFRESHMENT HOURS** The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is planning for refreshment hours once per month this summer after the Sunday morning service. The board announces two remaining dates this summer: **August 15 and September 5.**

Please give some thought to joining with another family or two to serve as hosts for one of those refreshment hours. We invite all of you to join us each of those Sundays!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** was held July 26-28. Nearly 50 children learned what Jesus did in dying and rising from death to be our Savior, and how the Triune God moves us to live as His followers in thankfulness for the salvation He has won for us and has given to us. We give Him our eternal thanks for His Word to share with others!

We also thank our teachers, as well as the project organizers and helpers, for their work.

**AT THE VOTERS MEETING** July 27 reports from the past three months were given, and decisions were made

- to send to WELS Missions 10% of a special gift from Grace Ev. Lutheran Church in Durand,
- and to have our treasurer use a special gift to the Debt Retirement Fund to make a lump sum principle payment in the full amount of the donation.

The reports for the meeting were sent by email on July 19. If you didn't get one, you can pick a packet up at church.

**REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-22** Memorial Lutheran School year will be held **Wednesday, August 18 6:15 – 7:30**. Students are asked to come to registration to bring their school supplies to the classroom and get set up in their desk.

If that will not work for you, please contact Pastor Voss, Mrs. Domke, or Mrs. Leitz to make other registration arrangements.

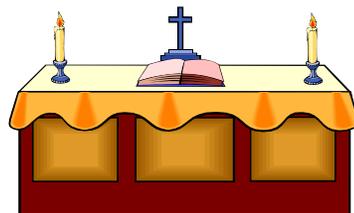
**OUR LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 2021-22** school year begins with a worship service at our school Wednesday, August 25 at 8:30. The entire congregation is invited!

Parents, remember that classes at our school dismiss at 12:00 that day, and that our Labor Day recess is both **Friday, September 3 and Monday, September 6.**



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** We will meet on Monday, September 13 at 7:00 PM. Please let Laurie know if you will be able to attend. We look forward to being able to meet in person once again and pray that the Lord will continue to bless our efforts as a group. We invite all women of our congregation to join us for this wonderful fellowship.

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



**SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR AUGUST SERVICES:**

<u>9:00</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
8/01 - #3 J. Janecke	K. Leitz	D&C Kasischke	D&C Kasischke
8/08 - #2 V. Domke	C. Burris	D&S Rector	J&K Leitz
8/15 - #1 T. Marion	M. Zoran	K&J Douglas	T&L Loeffler
8/22 - #9 D. Fisher	K. Ward	T&L Loeffler	F&N Mills
8/29- #8 D. Rector	L. Voss	J&M Zoran	J. Muscott

