

# Memorial Messenger

# augUST



*Rev. Jim Behringer, director, WELS Commission on Special Ministries*

Years ago a member of the Commission on Special Ministries asserted that instead of speaking of retirement, we should use the word “redirection.” From all I’ve heard about that stage of life, it’s not pulling back from life. Most retired people I know say they are busier than ever, but they are doing something different. Redirection seems more accurate.

I mention retirement and redirection because this is my last month serving the call to be WELS director of Special Ministries. This call redirected me for over a decade. I had been a parish pastor until I was called to this office. The Lord gave me new challenges and a different way to serve him as I served my fellow WELS members through this office.

I expect new challenges and different ways of serving Jesus. God’s people never come to a point in life where we stop serving him. I have some ideas of what my next stage of serving might look like while I still have health and energy. Having watched my grandparents and parents before me, I even have some idea of what serving the Lord may look like if I live to be frail or sick. Wherever Jesus directs me, I pray that I will be a blessing to others.

I recently attended the retirement of a dear sister in Christ and she was asked what advice she would give new teachers. She didn’t hesitate: “Love your students.” It took me back to the beginning of my ministry, and the advice of seasoned pastors I admired who stressed, “Love your people.” If you’ve read what I’ve written or said in Special Ministries, you already know what my parting advice will be: Love them. Love the people who struggle. Love the prodigals. Love people so much that you can’t stand the thought that they are unable to hear a sermon or read a Christian devotion. Love them so much that you ask the Lord how he wants us to overcome the obstacles that loom large. Love them so much that you see the gifts God gave them. And love those who serve with you.

Sensitive Lutheran readers are thinking to themselves, “That paragraph is loaded with Law!” My response is that Christian lives are loaded with love. In grace, God has made us his beloved children, redeemed us, and made us alive with Christ. In grace, God also loves the people we serve. They may not make sense to us. They wander and are unfaithful. They get angry and impatient. But our God’s love fills us with the urgent longing that none of them be lost. No matter what the barrier, no matter what the unfortunate circumstance, may they learn the life-giving gospel and know the love of Jesus.

PASTOR MOSHER will be in Wisconsin visiting Ron and Jan from July 25 to August 5. If you need pastoral care during this time, please call him at 419-343-8471 and he will make arrangements for one of the pastors to serve you.



**FORE!** Grab your sticks and head to the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course on August 24<sup>th</sup> for a 4 person golf scramble to benefit the school PTO. Tee off time is **3:00pm** and the cost is \$75 per player that *includes 18 holes of golf and dinner*. We are looking for players/teams to fill up the course, so head on over to the links whether you're a scratch player or a duffer for a great time! See flyer on bulletin board.

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND** services on Sunday mornings this summer in our *air-conditioned* sanctuary, you may always check our Facebook page where most morning services are uploaded by Sunday Evening, or attend a midweek service at one of the area WELS churches:

Emanuel First Lutheran (Lansing), Wednesday at 6:30pm  
 Shepherd of the Hills (Lansing), Monday at 6:30pm  
 Salem Ev. (Owosso), Thursday 7:00pm

**BACK TO SCHOOL** As we prepare to welcome the new school year, our church is organizing a back-to-school event for the children in our community. It will be held in our parking lot Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> 2-4pm. We are excited to provide backpacks filled with school supplies to children in need. This event is made possible through the generous donations of our congregation. Thank you for your support. May God bless you abundantly for you generosity and kindness.



**SCHOOL DAYS** Memorial Lutheran School will begin soon! Registration is on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> 6:15-7:30pm and the 1<sup>st</sup> day of school for Preschool—5<sup>th</sup> grade is Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> with dismissal at noon.

**PICTURES REQUESTED** The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is working on a new church directory. We kindly ask members to submit a family photo. You can do so by texting your photo to Karl Remus at 517-490-6208, sending your photo via email at [remuskarl77@outlook.com](mailto:remuskarl77@outlook.com) , or by asking Karl, Joe Janecke, or Jason Leitz to take a photo for you at church.

## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

The septic tanks and drain field at school were pumped and repaired after root infusion.  
 The gym floor at school was refinished.  
 The Board of Trustees would like to thank all Church and School volunteers for cleaning, among other tasks. We appreciate the countless hours everyone provides to take care of the facilities.

### **BOARD OF EVANGELISM & STEWARDSHIP:**

We are thankful for all our thankoffering counters and all their work.  
 We were represented in the Jubilee Parade, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and would like to thank those who participated.  
 We plan to show WELS Connection on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

### **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

The School plays were well attended.  
 The BOCE would like to thank Steve Houser for his work painting the classrooms.  
 The Board would like to thank our faithful Sunday School Teachers for sharing God's word with the children of our congregation each Sunday. God bless you for your faithful service to our children.

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

	<b><u>Ushers</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Guild</u></b>	<b><u>Playlist</u></b>	<b><u>Greeter(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Cleaners</u></b>
08/04	D. Fisher, P. Crandall, B. Janecke	Shelly Unruh	Leah Domke	J & M Zoran	(to be done 08/03) Houser
08/11	B. Briggs, D. Miller	Karen Unruh	Jason Leitz	G. Withey	(to be done 08/10)
08/18	T. Marion, H. Clark, D. Fortin	Robin Olin	Nancy Hart	C. & K Collins	(to be done 08/17) Janecke
08/25	V. Domke, D. Hoag	Ruth Hoag	J. Collins	K & A Remus	(to be done 08/24) Klaerner