



MEMORIAL MESSENGER December 2021



We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done. He set up testimony for Jacob. In Israel He established the law. He commanded our fathers to make it known to their children. Then the next generation would know it, even the children not yet born. They would rise up and tell their children. Then they would put their confidence in God, and they would not forget the deeds of God, but they would keep His commands. Psalm 78:4-7 (EHV)

I hope your Christmas memories run deeper than the best present you opened, the most beautiful tree you decorated, and the last time the entire family was home for the holidays. What is your first memory of hearing about the Savior's birth?

Most who read these lines don't remember. That's not bad. That's because for most of us the retelling of our Savior's birth has been part of our home life as long as we've been alive. That's good!

Why did anyone in Israel at the time hail the baby placed in a manger as the Son of God, as the long-awaited Messiah, as the Savior of the world? There were at least a few who did. They did so because they held on to the promises they had heard from their parents, who had heard it from their parents, who had heard it from their parents, and so on. For generations, the faithful had been getting ready for the arrival of the Savior. Their recognition of Jesus as the Savior was the result of the Holy Spirit's work through the teaching of His Word.

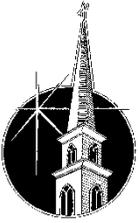
In the Christian church year much of December is the Advent season. Advent is the time to prepare to welcome the Savior. Worship services and classroom instruction focus on the promises of the Savior – and then the fulfillment of those promises by Jesus.

So many messages other than the one God sent the angels to proclaim to shepherds are mixed with the real **Christmas** message this time of year. Filter out the secular from the sacred by recalling what parents and grandparents, teachers and pastors told you about *"the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD"*. Parents and grandparents, *will* we emphasize the real **Christmas** in what we say to our children and grandchildren about the holidays this month? *"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done."* And what will our children and grandchildren tell the next generations about **Christmas**? May it be the same **Christmas** good news which they hear from us this month!

Many consider the holiday season to be family time. May the activities at home, the instruction by our church and school, and every service in our sanctuary prepare us better to tell family and friends *"the wonders the LORD has done"*. He became our Brother, entered our world, and thus won our heaven. The LORD will bless His Word through us at home and elsewhere as we tell the next generation about salvation in Christ alone.



Pastor Voss

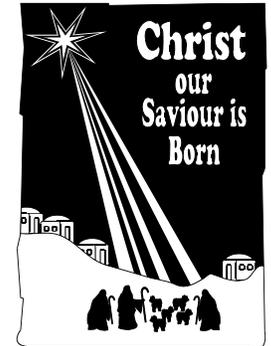


OUR THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL SERVICE will be **Wednesday, November 24 at 7:00**. Join us for a God-pleasing way to begin our Thanksgiving holiday!

This service provides the opportunity to sing our thanks to God in many hymns, 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 24 - 7:00 PM – Thanksgiving Eve Service
- Wednesday, December 1 - 7:00 PM – Midweek Advent Service
- Wednesday, December 8 - 7:00 PM – Midweek Advent Service
- Wednesday, December 15 - 7:00 PM – Midweek Advent Service
- Friday, December 24 - **7:00 PM** – Christmas Eve Service
- Saturday, December 25 - **10:00 AM** – for Christmas Day Service
- Sunday, December 26 - **10:00 AM** – Worship service
- Friday, December 31 - **7:00 PM** – for New Year’s Eve Service with Holy Communion
- Sunday, January 2 – **10:00 AM** – Worship service



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE We ***will*** have children participate in our Christmas Eve worship service! Thank you, parents, for your responses to our inquiry about your child(ren) participating.

Saturday, December 18 9:30 – 11:30 will be the one rehearsal for the service. Booklets with the children’s songs and speaking parts were distributed November 21-23.

Children should be at church by **6:40** on Christmas Eve. Parents, please bring your children to the fellowship hall so we can get organized before the service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 AND JANUARY 2 Because those dates are the day after Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, there will be ***one service at 10:00 both of those mornings.***

Sunday School and Bible Class will not meet those mornings.



THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2022 has been posted on the bulletin board. You are invited to sign up to place flowers on the altar for any Sunday. If you wish, you may also indicate the occasion for which the flowers are being donated.

We ask your cooperation in filling only two or three Sundays for 2022 per family for now, allowing more of our families to sign up. In January, please feel free to take as many Sundays as are still open.

If you have questions about how to use the chart or order flowers to be presented here in church, please speak to Pastor Voss.

POINSETTIAS We are not able to bulk order poinsettias this year. If you would like to donate a plant or two to decorate our chancel area for Christmas, please bring your plant(s) to church by **December 15** if possible. A display will be set up but if more plants come in later, we will add those to the display. If you wish to take your plant home after the Christmas services, please label your plant on the bottom of the pot.



WORK IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL began the day after the decision by the voters to go forward with the project. As of November 19 the fellowship hall and storage areas have been emptied and repainted, the church library shelves have been moved to the narthex, the carpet has been removed and floor leveled for the application of an epoxy floor, and new lights have been installed. So far, work is on schedule to be completed before Christmas.

DUE TO THAT WORK, we will not have a supper before any of the midweek Advent services in December.

A SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING will be held at 11:35 AM on **December 19**. The brief agenda for the meeting will be elections to church office and boards.

WE REMIND the re-elected and newly elected board members and officers that their terms begin January 1 (their first official meetings will be in early January). The plan, for now, is to have installation for these men during the worship services on **January 2**. That may be changed after the December Church Council meeting.

DEBT RETIREMENT FUND As of the end of October, special gifts to our Debt Retirement Fund have lowered our LACE loan to under \$70,000.00. We are grateful to all the donors for their gifts, and especially to our Lord for supplying the gifts and the motivation to support His kingdom's work.

We remind our members that gifts to the Debt Retirement Fund will be sent to LACE in the entire amount of those gifts.

WATCH FOR YOUR 2022 offering envelopes. They will be ready by December 19.

USHERS We will distribute the 2022 usher schedule, teams, and duties to you in your mail slot at church.



THE MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY CONCERT CHOIR will be at our church **Sunday, January 23**. Our members Leah and Seth Domke are choir members.

For the convenience of travel for that choir from Saginaw that day, we have decided that there will be **one service on January 23 at 10:00**. We will also move the distribution of Holy Communion to the following Sunday, January 30. Our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will not meet on January 23.

PRINTER CARTRIDGES We continue to recycle old printer cartridges at OfficeDepot, and get credit for the ones we take in each month. The donations we continue to receive are much appreciated!

But it's becoming difficult for us to store the large toner cartridges that are used in business printers / copiers. So, for the time being, we are only recycling home printer cartridges that fit in the palm of your hand. We trust that you will understand why we won't be able to accept large cartridges at this time.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP Because we are meeting on Tuesday, **November 30** to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas, we will also make that our meeting for December. We will meet a half hour earlier at **9:30 AM**. (We will not meet December 1.)

We will also meet on Saturday, **December 11, at 9:30** to set up the things we will have for sale for our mission fundraiser. We haven't been able to do that for a couple years. It will be nice to once again consider different places to send our mission monies.

We thank you for visiting our gift table. Our fundraiser items will include quite a few things this year. Jam & jellies, cookies and candies, cookie tins, blankets and old Christmas tree ornaments we used to use at church. Prices will be marked, and we ask you to remember that all items are donated by the Ladies Fellowship with proceeds going to mission projects.

This year we will also be offering boxes of religious Christmas cards. We haven't done that for several years. They will be available for purchase on the stand next to our exterior doors in the narthex. If you write a check, please make it out to Memorial Lutheran Ladies Fellowship. Proceeds from card sales goes to getting items for our church library.

We continue to remember our prayer partners throughout each month and give them a reveal greeting card at the end of each month.

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For
God so
loved the
world He gave
His one and only
Son that whoever
believes in Him shall not
perish but have eternal life
John
3:16

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – The WELS Benefit Plans Office has prepared three informative videos as our synod gets ready to implement the new WELS Pension Plan on January 1, 2022. We sent the link which contains the videos to Mrs. Domke and Mrs. Leitz, as well as to the men on the Board of Evangelism & Stewardship. If you want to see the videos, let me know and I can easily send the same to you.

We submitted to WELS our 2022 CMO subscription of \$6,000, the amount in the budget adopted by the voters in October.

The new hymnals arrived October 12, and about 20 members helped break them in on October 25. Hymnals are being given to members who ordered them and have paid for them.

We await delivery of the accompaniment books (for organ, piano, and other instruments), Playlist (replacing HymnSoft) software, and other resources. Once those books and resources arrive, we will put the new hymnals in the pews and begin using the new hymnal.

The Ladies Fellowship Group is very grateful for the approval to move the church library to the narthex, as well as for considering their idea to put the epoxy floor in all three church bathrooms.

At their December meeting, the ladies will finalize menu options for funeral meals. Once menu choices are all set, we will notify our members of the change from food donated by members to food purchased from local businesses (with the family picking up the cost to the congregation for the food and necessary meal items), as well as the reasons for this change.

I plan to conduct all three midweek Advent services here next month. We will have enough children available for the children's Christmas Eve service December 24.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – *Grades 1-5* -Mrs. Domke's class had a number of absences last month. Mrs. Domke worked with the parents of the students to get assignments to those who were absent to help them stay current. Mrs. Domke held consultations with parents after the first quarter ended.

Preschool and Kindergarten – Mrs. Leitz is considering candidates for an aide to step in when one of the current preschool aides goes out on leave for the birth of a baby. She met with parents of kindergarten students after the first quarter ended. Her consultations with parents of preschool students is usually done at the halfway point of the school year and Mrs. Leitz plans to do so again this school year.

Sunday School classes are meeting in the narthex and cry room during the fellowship hall renovation. We are asking our teachers what they need for classrooms in the fellowship hall. Teachers agree with the plan to put classrooms on the east wall where there is more light. We will install dry erase boards and cork strips that are stored in the mezzanine at school. We will purchase rolling carts for each classroom's supplies. The board received input from the staff about classroom dividers as well.

PTO - There will not be an Advent supper for the PTO to host on December 1. We will select a date for a January meeting of the PTO.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders recommends the transfer of membership of John and Jackie Timm to Emanuel First Ev. Lutheran Church in Lansing.

The Elders reviewed special services for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. With Christmas falling on a Saturday this year, we will have only one service the following Sunday, December 26 at 10:00. There will only be one service Sunday, January 2 at 10:00 as well. There will be no Bible Class or Sunday School December 26 or January 2.

- Christmas Eve – Friday, December 24 at 7:00 PM
- Christmas Day – Saturday, December 25 at 10:00
- Sunday, December 26 one service at 10:00
- New Year's Eve – Friday, December 31 at 7:00 PM
- Sunday, January 2 one service at 10:00

The MLS Concert Choir will be here on Sunday, January 23. We will have only one service that day at 10:00. We

will collect a door offering that day to benefit the Concert Choir. We will not have Holy Communion that Sunday. We will instead have communion on Sunday, January 30.

New Hymnals and psalters have arrived. The Elders thank the volunteers (20) who helped break in the books. The board discussed our plans to implement the new hymnal for worship.

The 2022 usher schedule is being prepared. A few usher teams will need to be adjusted due to a handful of ushers stepping down or transferring to another congregation.

The Elders continue to review and monitor our worship service practices as they relate to the health and safety of our congregation. No changes are being made at this time.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We thank Howard Clark for figuring out the issue with the screen not coming down at church.

We thank Dave Fortin for the report he provided to the voters about the audit of the church's financial records.

We continue to look at nominations for open positions on the different boards and request a special voters meeting be held December 19 at 11:30 AM for elections.

We decided Advent suppers will not happen this year with all the work going into the fellowship hall during this time.

We decided the first Sunday of the month refreshments would not happen in November. We will see how things go in the fellowship hall for December 5 refreshments.

A new greeters schedule has been prepared and distributed.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Kendall Goetz and Larry Shipman have sold the equipment and closed Lee's excavation. We will need to find a snow removal contractor. We will call Dan's Service for a bid.

We discussed the remediation project – so far everything is on schedule. We thank Pat Crandall, Steve Houser, and the Ladies Fellowship Group for all their work getting the rooms cleaned out and ready.

After discussion with the Ladies Fellowship, we placed a change order to have all 3 bathrooms done with epoxy paint.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN: This month we have been learning about the life of Joseph. Joseph sure had an adventurous life. It's very entertaining for the little ones to hear about all the dramatic twists and turns his life takes. The things we can learn from Joseph are complete trust in God, to be thankful for what we have, to do our best and give all the glory to God, and love and forgiveness. Joseph was no perfect person but we can learn a lot from His life and how to live our faith in Christ Jesus.

The Preschoolers and Kindergartners have been learning about the Pilgrims and Wampanoags this month. We also have been discussing that Thanksgiving is a day we set aside to be thankful to God for all we have but realizing that we should really be thankful every day. We ended our study by making butter, making Pilgrim hats, writing with Quills, and doing a ribbon dance as the Wampanoag's may have done something similar.

The Kindergarten and 1-5 were also able to benefit from our first combined hot lunch since before we shut down for Covid. Thank you to all that were involved in preparing and serving!

Kindergarten also will be joining 1-5 in singing Christmas Carols at the Senior Center next month.

We have also started practicing for our Christmas service next month. We will also have a fun Happy Birthday Jesus party before we have Christmas break.

Many Blessings as you prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5

This has been a busy month for us! In our study of God's Word we learned all about Joseph and how God used him to save millions of people, not to mention the line of the world's Savior! What a fascinating path Joseph had. It is a good reminder that we don't know what path God has for us, either. Since we are still on this earth, God has work for us to do, praising Him and telling others about Him. During this happy time of year, we praise God for His goodness.

Grades 3-5 are learning loads about earth science. Right now we are learning about minerals, the rock cycle, and how nonrenewable and nonrenewable resources are used. We are also learning more about economics in our study of Michigan history.

Grades 1-2 are working hard on letters, words, sentences, and the like. Right now we're spending time with L blends. The students are eager to show what they know, and love trying to keep up with the older kids.



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR DECEMBER SERVICES:



<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
12/01 - #8 D. Rector		L. Voss		
12/05 - #2 V. Domke	#3 J. Janecke	C. Burris	D. Wood	J. Douglas
12/08 - #9 D. Fisher		C. Burris		
12/12 - #7 D. Kasischke	#4 J. Zoran	R. Olin	V&J Domke	K&K Fedewa
12/15 - #1 T. Marion		R. Olin		
12/19 - #5 S. Houser	#9 D. Fisher	M. Zoran	L. Tobia	D&S Fisher
12/24 - #2 V. Domke		M. Zoran		
12/25 - #8 D. Rector		M. Zoran		
12/26 - #6 P. Jantos		K. Ward	G. Withey	D&L Fortin
12/31 - #4 J. Zoran		K. Ward		

