

# MEMORIAL MESSENGER *February 2021*



*"We all have gone astray like sheep. Each of us has turned to his own way, but the LORD has charged all our guilt to Him." (Isaiah 53:6) "Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29)*

A coach sends substitutes into a game for a lot of reasons – other than the wholesome goal to get most of the players into each game. One player gets tired. Another isn't a good match-up for the opponent. Still another tweaks an ankle. Yet another is having a bad game.

You are familiar with John the Baptist's explanation of the heavenly Father's substitution. John pointed to Jesus and proclaimed, *"Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."* The upcoming Lent season is all about substitution. In the midweek services which begin Ash Wednesday, February 17, the subdued hymn tunes, the different colors in our worship area, the Scripture lessons and sermons will all direct our attention to history's most important substitution: *Christ is the Substitute sent for us.*

Why did the LORD send the Substitute in our place? Were we tired or injured? I suppose that our spiritual condition could be described that way. But such a description would minimize our damning guilt. God's Word, especially the Isaiah verse above, says it less diplomatically, but far more accurately. *"Each of us has turned to his own way",* which God goes on to describe as *"all our guilt"*.

The LORD sent the Substitute in our place because we couldn't get the job done. What job? The demand that we keep God's law *perfectly*. God doesn't settle for us doing our best; He leaves no room for error. *"Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48). We need the Substitute because we were headed for certain defeat if left to ourselves. And that defeat would have resulted in our damnation.

Jesus came – not off the bench, but from heaven – to be our saving Substitute. A challenge each Lent season is that we not narrow our focus on the cross to the fact that there Jesus died a cruel, gruesome death. May the Holy Spirit use His Word to hold before us the saving fact that Christ at the cross – after His perfect life – suffered the torture and torments of hell for every sin. The torture of hell was the punishment we should have paid by suffering forever there. Thanks to our Substitute, *the Substitute*, we'll never have to spend a second there!

If virus matters don't change the schedule, then during Holy Week this year many will be talking about college basketball's Final Four games. What we need to hear about that week – and all our lives – isn't what a coach did by changing his lineup to turn the season around, but what God did by suffering in our place to forgive us sinners now and take us to Himself forever.

May Spirit-worked, humble repentance and joy move us to hear God's Word in the extra services coming up. May our Substitute continue to take His rightful place at the center of our hearts and at the head of our lives!

*Pastor Voss*

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



**THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S** path to His crucifixion begins **Ash Wednesday, February 17,** and continues **each Wednesday through March 31.** Lent services begin **at 7:00.**

Join us to praise God for the gift of salvation won by our Savior for us sinners in His life, death, and resurrection. Pastor Voss will conduct the services, which will include sermons about our Savior's betrayal, various trials, and His words on the cross.

**ON-LINE WORSHIP** To provide worship opportunities for our members who are at risk and do not yet feel it is 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 a service each week. We normally record the 8:00 service each Sunday. ***Because of that timing and the work required to edit and , process the video and audio files, the recorded service is usually uploaded to our YouTube channel Sunday afternoon, though some weeks it may not be until late Sunday night.***

Our Board of Evangelism & Stewardship urges you to let unchurched family members and friends know where to find our worship services on-line!

**OUR LENT SERVICES WILL BE RECORDED** and posted on-line either very late the evening of the service, or mid-morning the next day.

**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.

**AT THE VOTERS MEETING** January 26, the recommendations that we send 10% of our General Fund amount as of December 31, 2020 and that we not renew the lease with the child care center using our school were not adopted.

**HOMEBOUND MEMBERS** While in a sense, many of our members have been home-bound since mid-March, we periodically provide in the newsletter a list of our members who are unable to get to God's house due to mobility issues.

*Augusta Bump                  Betty Deisler                  Velna Hoag*

Remember them in your prayers. If you'd like to send any of them a card, please speak to Pastor Voss for an address. Visits at this time are not allowed or desired.

**IF YOU WILL BE AWAY FROM CHURCH** and/or out of town for an extended period of time, there is a convenient way to submit regularly your thankoffering. You can instruct your bank to mail a check to *Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church / 1022 W. Grand River Ave. / Williamston, MI 48895.* When such checks arrive the mail, they are given to our thankoffering counters the following Monday. The amount is deposited into our General Fund, and the amount is noted for your account as our Financial Secretary keeps a record of all thankofferings by our members.

You may also choose to use Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT). There is no charge by the bank to the congregation for this service. If you wish to use EFTs, here are the numbers you'll need:

*Routing number: 072402652*

*Account number: 1154777.*

If you have questions about using EFT for thankofferings and/or special gifts, please speak to our treasurer, Kim Fedewa.

**WHEN FILLING OUT** your thankoffering envelope, please be aware of the following:

- You **don't** need to write your name on the line provided. The identifying number in the upper corner is all that our financial secretary needs.

- We ask that you **do** list the amount placed inside the envelope on the line provided for that purpose. This information is needed by our financial secretary. If you do not list it, the counters will write it in when opening the envelope.

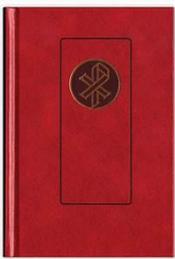
Some members are uneasy about others seeing the amount written on the envelope as the offering plate moves across the pews. *We suggest putting the envelope in the plate **face down**. That will allow you to provide the information needed by our counters, financial secretary, and treasurer, yet keep your offering amount confidential.*



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** We will hold a meeting by Zoom on Monday, February 1 at 7:00. If you'd like to join us and have not received the link for this, please contact Laurie Voss.

At this meeting we will begin with a devotion and then talk about where to use and send our mission offerings from last year. We look forward to "seeing" each other and getting a chance to serve and then visit.

## **NEW HYMNAL**

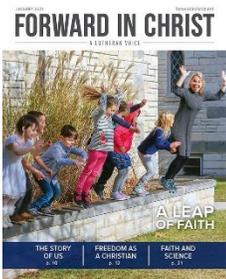


Work over a number of years on a new hymnal for our church body has been completed, and the new hymnal and related resources are going to the printer this winter. Shipment of the hymnals and other resources will take place this fall. The scheduled date for first use of the hymnal, still called *Christian Worship*, is November 28, 2021 – the first Sunday in Advent and the beginning of the next Christian Church Year.

So that the WELS Hymnal Project has a good idea of how many copies of the hymnal to order the printer to make, congregations across the Synod are urged to submit their orders *this winter*. However, payment will not be due until the fall when the hymnals arrive.

Our congregation will be placing our order in early February. Cost of the new hymnal will be **\$24.00**. If you want to order a hymnal for your personal use, **let Pastor Voss know by mid-February**. He will keep a list, and will add your copy (or copies) to the 250 hymnals we are ordering for our use in church. We are pleased to report that memorial gifts and other special gifts to the congregation the last two years will cover the cost to the congregation for pew hymnals and related resources. Your cost will be \$24.00; the congregation will pay for the shipping. There is no need to pay now; we'll contact you about payment in the fall.

The new hymnal will have about 400 of the hymns in our current hymnal, and more than 200 hymns that aren't in the current hymnal will be included in the new *Christian Worship*. More information about the hymnal will be provided in the coming months. Contact Pastor Voss to order your copy.



## **FORWARD IN CHRIST**

If you wish to renew your subscription to *Forward in Christ*, our Synod's magazine, or order a new subscription, you may use the envelope in your 2021 envelope packet that is marked for this purpose.

Subscription price will be **\$11.50** for this year, provided that enough families subscribe and we can take advantage of that bulk subscription rate. That price covers twelve monthly issues. If you subscribe through the congregation, your issue will be mailed to the church and placed in your box in the narthex.

*Forward In Christ* is an excellent periodical! It contains Bible studies, articles about how our Savior's love for us has affected people's lives, news from our Synod and religious information from around the world, and a number of other features. If you would like to see a few issues to get an idea of what the magazine is like, speak to Pastor Voss.

Please use your offering packet envelope for *Forward in Christ* (or a plain envelope labeled “*Forward in Christ*”), be sure to put your name on the envelope, fill it with a check for **\$11.50** made out to ***Memorial Lutheran Church***, and give it to Pastor Voss. Please do so by **February 7!**

**FOOD BANK** At the present time, the local food bank is not accepting food donations. When that changes, we will inform our members via the monthly newsletter or weekly church bulletin. However, we are receiving cash donations for the food bank on the third Sunday of each month.

**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.



## CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – Both the Board of Elders and the Board of Evangelism and Stewardship discussed the suggestions from the WELS leaders about ways congregations might use the money they budgeted for a pension contribution increase. Both boards want to consider the ideas for at least another month before recommending anything to the Church Council and to the voters.

Member of our congregation are starting to submit orders for the new hymnal that will be used for the first time in late November 2021.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – The board organized for 2021: Norm Schlicker – president; Dave Fortin – secretary.

Consultations with parents will be scheduled for after school and evenings later in January, replacing the consultations missed the first week of November.

Mrs. Leitz and Pastor will contact families about 3-year-olds to enroll late in January for preschool.

As we get farther into January, dates for Preschool and Kindergarten Roundups will be proposed, as well as the format – in person or virtual.

Pastor spoke with Rich Chaffee, father of students and an MSP officer, regarding lock down procedures. We may invite a consultant to review our situation and give us his lock down suggestions. We thank Howard and Sue Clark for purchasing 6 air horns for a lock down warning system.

Kim Fedewa has laptops ready and set up in our computer classroom.

With the Pastor-Teacher Conference canceled, February 8 will now be a day of classes. February 15 there is no school for Presidents' Day.

Zoom Sunday School sessions are being held with our SS staff.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Board of Elders organized as follows: Steve Houser – chairman; Bob Briggs – secretary.

The organist and HymnSoft schedules through June have been prepared. The Board of Elders thanks our organists and HymnSoft operators for using their God given talents to edify our worship services.

The Elders continue to review and monitor our worship service practices as they relate to the health and safety of our congregation.

The annual December door offering has been sent to Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – The Board organized as follows: Joe Janecke – chairman; Jason Leitz – secretary.

We still urge members to share worship service links with others.

We discussed how frequently to remind members that Debt Retirement Fund is established and that gifts to it are over/above principle owed. The reminders will run once a quarter.

We will remind members they are welcome to use Electronic Fund Transfer for offerings, and we will provide members with the routing numbers needed to do so.

The 2021 counters' schedule was prepared and distributed.

We thank Dan Kasischke for distributing the year end statements so promptly.

The *WELS Connection* video was renewed for 2021.

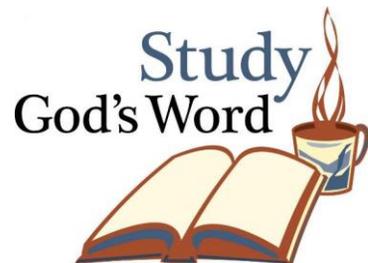
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – The Board recommends the purchase of a new photo copier machine.

The Board organized as follows: Todd Loeffler – chairman; Dennis K. Fisher – secretary; David Dawley – water testing; Victor Domke – parsonage and church; Patrick Crandall – school.

We discussed that the photo copier is not working properly. Parts are not available for repairs to the machine. We thank Laurie Voss for her work on getting information for the motion listed above.

We will get in contact with Stanley Door Opener for adjustments on the automatic door.

Pat is in contact with Myer heating for a nice day to get on the roof and look at the roof top units for some repairs and adjustments.



## ***BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL***

**FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN:** This month we have been hearing a lot of the parables that Jesus used to teach the people and us the many lessons we need to keep our hearts and minds focused on Him. We have learned about forgiving others: that we all are sinful and need a Savior, to put Him first and listen to His word at every opportunity and to remember to thank and praise Him. Good reminders for us all especially amidst trials and times of turmoil.

The Preschool and Kindergarten students have been enjoying learning about snow and how it is formed. We have also set up a pet shop in our dramatic play center to learn about animals and how to take care of them properly. We will be having a fun dress up week before valentine's day to add something a little fun to the regular celebration day we have.

May the Lord continue to bless you all in the coming month.

**FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5:** In our study of God's Word the last couple of weeks we have been studying the parables of the Lord Jesus. We've learned about true forgiveness, faithfulness, how to treat our neighbors, and God's unending patience and love. What a privilege to share with God's children the truths of the Bible. It never gets old!

Grades 3-5 continue our study of colonial days leading up to the Revolution in Social Studies. Right now we are looking at colonial government, the role of the king, and the Navigation Acts. It is fascinating to watch the students' expressions as they put all the facts together. When you study history it is so clear why the colonies revolted and desired to establish their own country.

Grades 1-2 continue to read, read, read and read some more each day. We're also writing like mad in nearly every subject. Recently we've been working on quotation marks and adding adjectives to sentences to make them more interesting.

Snowy weather has also added to our fun. We've had a few fun days rolling snowballs and throwing snowballs when the teacher isn't looking! The gym is a fantastic alternative when the weather is too cold or wet to enjoy the playground. Thank you, members, for providing such a wonderful place to learn and play.



**SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR FEBRUARY 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> |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 2/07 - #7 D. Kasischke | #3 J. Janecke       | S. Rector                 | D&C Kasischke            | J&K Leitz              |
| 2/14 - #6 C. Rhodea    | #9 D. Fisher        | K. Ward                   | D&S Rector               | T&L Loeffler           |
| 2/17 - #1 T. Marion    |                     | K. Ward                   |                          |                        |
| 2/21 - #5 S. Houser    | #8 D. Rector        | K. Leitz                  | K&J Douglas              | F&N Mills              |
| 2/24 - #2 V. Domke     |                     | K. Leitz                  |                          |                        |
| 2/28 - #7 D. Kasischke | #1 T. Marion        | S. Unruh                  | T&L Loeffler             | J. Muscott             |