

MEMORIAL MESSENGER

January 2022



"I am the light of the world." John 8:12

"You are the light of the world." Matthew 5:14

The Savior said to people one day, *"I am the light of the world"*. Another day He said, *"You are the light of the world."* Critics of the Bible insist those two statements can't both be true. Either **Jesus** is the light of the world or **we** are the light of the world. But both He and we can't be the light of the world, right? Wrong!

"Light". God created it. Human beings need it – as do plants and animals. Light is so marvelous and so necessary to life. Yet light is so common and familiar that we seldom give it a second thought...until it's gone.

Because all that is true, is it any wonder that our Savior called Himself *"the light of the world"*? We have just begun our Christmas and Epiphany celebrations which focus on Him who is *"the light of the world"*, who is the only One who has the power and the love to rescue sinners from eternal darkness and damnation in hell.

The same Savior says also about us, *"You are the light of the world"*. We reflect His light in the world. We don't create our own light. By ourselves, we don't have any brightness or power for the world. The light and power that we have – and that the world needs – is His light glowing in us and radiating from us.

When you tell a searching soul about the newborn Savior, and about the work He did here to buy us back to God, you reflect the Light of the world. The Holy Spirit uses you to show that person Christ alone is the way out of spiritual darkness, depression, and unbelief.

When you are with other candles as members of Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church, you might think of yourself a tiny flame with little value. "Of what use am I among so many? What difference do I make? Who would know if my candle stayed hidden, barely lit? Will anyone notice if I don't participate in the work of God's kingdom?" What if every member of our congregation said, "Who am I among so many? They don't need me!"

Jesus has put us here to share His light. His words, *"You are the light of the world"*, weren't given to only a few super-believers long ago. His words, *"Let your light shine"* (Matthew 5:16) aren't an option we can choose to do or to leave undone depending on how we feel and how full our day is. In the new year do we need a new direction for January, for 2022? No! *"I am the light of the world!"* is the salvation sermon Jesus preaches to us every moment, directing our eyes of faith to Him alone. *"You are the light of the world!"* is the kingdom direction Jesus supplies to us every day, telling us what to do and why we're here.



With so much spiritual darkness in our world, we won't dim the light available to the world. Your light shining is important because it is Jesus. Your light-shining makes a difference because it is the Savior working in you. May the Holy Spirit bless our work together to serve as His light in His world, reflecting Him who is *"the light of the world!"* There is no better reaction to the Christmas truth we still celebrate!

Pastor Voss



BAPTISM Maverick Russell Clark, infant son of Katee Clark, received the saving washing of Holy Baptism in which the Triune God brought him to saving faith Christ as his Savior. The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered November 27.
May our gracious God ever keep Maverick in his baptismal grace!

SPECIAL SERVICES:

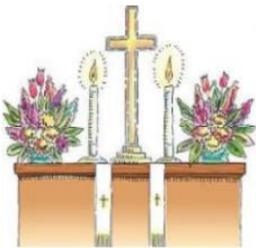
Friday, December 31 - **7:00 PM** – New Year’s Eve Service with Holy Communion
Sunday, January 2 – **10:00 AM** – Worship service



WE CONTINUE to record the worship service each Sunday and post it to our YouTube channel. You can access the recorded services by clicking on the **Memorial Lutheran Church** ribbon on the home page of our web site, and looking for **Video or Worship Services**.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2 Because this Sunday is the day after New Year’s Day, there will be **one service at 10:00 Sunday morning**. Sunday School and Bible Class will not meet on January 2.

WE REMIND the re-elected board members and officers that their installation to office will be during the worship service on **January 2**.



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.

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

LADIES FELLOWSHIP Our meeting for the new year is **Wednesday, January 5 at 10:00**. We are going to have a little party that we missed while waiting for the fellowship hall work to be completed. Please bring a favorite appetizer, brunch item or dessert to share.

We will discuss our agenda for 2022, talk about where to send our mission offerings, finalize our menus for funeral dinners, and take down the Christmas decorations. Please bring your other project or meeting ideas.

Thank you to all who bought items from our cookies, jams, and miscellaneous items to help grow our mission offerings.

We invite all the women from our congregation to join us. We are trying this new meeting day and time in hopes that it will make it easier for more to come. God has blessed us so greatly. We hope we can share our fellowship with more and serve Him more too.

WORK IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL is nearing completion at this writing (December 22). New ceiling tile is being cut and installed, the last major aspect of the project.

We hope to use the fellowship hall for Sunday School classes when those classes resume on Sunday, January 9.

You are all invited for refreshments after **both services on Sunday, January 9** to see the improvements in the fellowship hall for yourselves. Sunday School and Bible Class that morning will be delayed until **9:25 AM**.



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.

THE VOTERS MEETING this winter will be held **Tuesday, February 1 at 7:00**. That is one week later than usual, a change made by the Church Council in December due to the MLS Concert Choir being here Sunday, January 23 which necessitates moving the open forum to Sunday, January 30 at 11:35 AM.

DEBT RETIREMENT FUND As of the end of November, special gifts to our Debt Retirement Fund have lowered our LACE loan to under \$57,000.00. 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.

2022 THANKOFFERING ENVELOPES have been prepared and placed in your mail slot. ***Please don't use the 2022 envelopes until January 2, 2022.*** And, because new numbers have been assigned, ***don't use 2021 envelopes after December 31, 2021.***



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 financemen, yet keep your offering amount confidential.*

FORWARD IN CHRIST Do you wish to renew or begin a new subscription to *Forward in Christ*? FIC is our Wisconsin Synod's monthly magazine. Subscription price is still just \$11.50 for twelve issues.

Please use your offering packet envelope for *Forward in Christ* (or a plain envelope labeled "Forward in Christ" and with your name on it), fill it with a check for **\$11.50** payable to **Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church**, and give it to Pastor Voss by ***February 6***.

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.

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 – WELS News: Through the first 11 months of 2021, Synod Congregation Mission Offerings remain ahead of the same time in 2020 and of subscriptions. The new WELS CFO reports that the synod is in good financial shape.

The WELS Benefit Plans Office continues to contact called workers and congregation representatives about the January 2, 2022 change to the WELS Pension Plan on January 1, 2022. Dan Kasischke is serving as our congregation's plan administrator and has submitted the necessary information to WELS for our called workers.

The new hymnals were placed in the pews after the December 8 midweek Advent service. The old hymnals are in boxes on the upper level of the narthex, awaiting recycling.

PlayList, the replacement for HymnSoft, isn't ready just yet. Therefore, any service in which HymnSoft is used will be one in which hymns and liturgy can be accessed from HymnSoft for use with the new hymnal.

Our grateful congregation thanks Howard Clark, Dennis Fisher, and Dan Kasischke for their faithful decades of service on boards, as officers, and as Church Council members. Your work has been a great blessing to many.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Grades 1-5: Mrs. Domke continues to work with students and parents, particularly in subject where students are struggling. We discussed the possibility of helping with the cost of counseling for a student whose father recently passed away. Pastor will speak with the widow.

Preschool and kindergarten: Mrs. Leitz is making up previously missed preschool sessions one Friday per month. The board approves of the candidates she has contacted for an aide to step in when one of the current preschool aides gives birth to a baby the end of December.

General school items: The board reviewed our lockdown procedures in light of recent tragic events elsewhere. School was canceled November 12 so families could attend the memorial service for the father of one of our students.

Sunday School: We thank Kathy Fedewa and Nora Stanton for adapting so readily and patiently to their temporary classroom settings.

PTO: We scheduled a PTO meeting for Monday, January 17 at 6:30. The main item of discussion will be our plans to add upper grades for the 2023-24 school year, and what the tuition cost increase would likely be to fund an additional teacher/principal. Monthly special lunches have resumed.

BOARD OF ELDERS – As has been requested by several members, we will begin using the modern version of the Lord's Prayer more frequently. We will use the modern version on the first and third Sunday each month.

The 2022 usher schedule has been prepared. Several usher teams are being re-aligned. The new usher teams and schedule has been distributed.

Our annual December door offering was received on December 19. The door offering will be used to support the WELS World Missions effort in London, Great Britain.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed having an all-day Saturday class for members who didn't attend the "Let's Go!" personal evangelism Bible classes.

We are thankful for all our thankoffering counters and all their work. We welcome a new counter to replace Levi Vogt, and thank Levi for his years of faithful service.

The manger scene has been set out. We thank the Hoag family for the straw.

We will renew the WELS Connection for 2022.

We will resume first Sunday of the month refreshments, but the one in January will be on January 9 since there is only one service on January 2.

A new thankoffering counter schedule has been prepared and distributed.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We thank the Fisher family for moving tables and chairs back to church.

We have scheduled two companies to bid on the duct work cleaning for the church.

We discussed status on the church renovations. Everything is moving forward. There were delays with shipping on some items (the Sunday School room dividers and ceiling tiles).

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN: December always goes so quickly as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday in our classroom. We always make a paper chain countdown that is connected to an angel announcing Jesus' birth. Throughout the month we take the chains off and the last day of school before break we have a birthday party for Jesus. We also light candles and have Advent devotions. All these things we do point to the birth of our Savior. It's a blessing we are able to emphasize the CHRIST in Christmas at our school. All the other things we do add to the joy, but He is the main source of joy in our lives at any season.

Thank you for your continued support and may God bless all of you this Christmas season and in your new year. *Karla Leitz*

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5

This month in our study of God's Word we traveled with the Israelites from Egypt to Mt. Sinai to the edge of Canaan. Despite the wonderful care God gave His people they rebelled against Him time and time again. Now they are faced with forty years of wandering because of their lack of trust. We need to remember how much our God loves us and cares for us, too, and serve Him and obey Him with joy.

We enjoyed decorating the halls, classrooms and lockers throughout December. School looks very festive. We also enjoyed making cards and gifts, also lots of fun. We dressed up like gifts, wore class colors, and hung out in our pajamas while enjoying a pancake lunch on Dec. 17. It has been a very fun month.

We did manage to get a lot of work accomplished, as well. Math is much more challenging now, as we are learning new things. Grades 3-5 have just finished a chapter in science on Earth's resources and, coincidentally, a social studies chapter on Michigan's resources. We spent lots of time discussing how to use these resources in a God pleasing, responsible way.

Earlier this month we traveled to MLS to attend the musical, *Tuck Everlasting*. It was fun to see it on stage after reading the book together. We also went to the Williamston Senior Center and enjoyed caroling. What a fun couple of weeks!

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JANUARY SERVICES:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
1/02 - #6 J. Zoran		K. Unruh	J&S Janecke	D&R Hoag
1/09 - #5 S. Houser	#1 T. Marion	S. Unruh	H&S Clark	S. Houser
1/16 - #7 D. Kasischke	#3 J. Janecke	S. Rector	D&K Kasischke	B. Janecke
1/23 - #8 D. Rector		K. Leitz	D&S Rector	J&S Janecke
1/30 - #2 V. Domke	#4 J. Janecke	L. Voss	K&J Douglas	D&C Kasischke



***May God richly bless your
new year and your worship
of Him throughout the year!***

