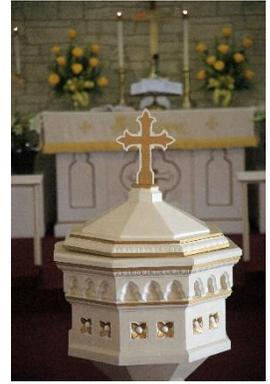




MEMORIAL MESSENGER July 2022



The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit.

A broken and crushed heart, O God, You will not despise. Psalm 51:17

Our congregation is enjoying some hymns, Psalm settings, and canticles (the songs of the liturgy) that have been written in the last twenty-five years as we use them in our new hymnal. There's nothing wrong with using new music (and even new *instruments*, as members offer to use their God-given skills that way) for worship as long as the Bible's message of our sins and the Savior's sacrifice is the center of that music.

When we ponder seriously and sincerely our sins and Jesus' salvation, we bring our sacrifices to God. We don't bring sacrifices of animals, as did the Old Testament Jews. But, like the faithful in Old Testament Israel, we do bring sacrifices faithfully from the heart: *"a broken spirit...and a crushed heart, O God, You will not despise"*.

That's a message modern mankind needs to take to heart. We tend to blame others, rather than admit our guilt. We like to present ourselves as victims of society, instead of as sinners against the holy God. Americans seem more ready to appear on scandalous shows to discuss what has driven them to outlandish acts than they are to kneel before the Lord and confess they have sinned. It doesn't help that public figures in politics, sports, even church positions blame others and plead with people to accept them as they are.

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and crushed heart, O God, You will not despise." A broken spirit doesn't boast about sinful behavior. A crushed heart doesn't simply shrug, "I'm sorry, God!" Our crushed heart is deeply ashamed and spiritually bothered – not just that we were caught, but especially that we offended the gracious God who made us and saved us and should damn us. Our broken spirit sobs, not before TV cameras, but in private confession before the holy Lord God Almighty.

But how awful it would be if our relationship with God ended at an altar on which we lay our sins and at which we hear Him say, "You have offended Me!" It doesn't end there. We trust that our relationship with God continues eternally because at the altar of the cross Christ sacrificed Himself for our guilt!

Those who claim they don't get much out of weekly worship or personal devotions are told by God to take their sins more seriously. *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit...and a crushed heart."* When we realize how hopeless our situation is before God because of our trespasses, we will rejoice to hear weekly and daily the same great news that the LORD deals with us not as our sins deserve, but for the sake of His Son.

Today's trend in worship that is to be more entertaining people than it is proclaiming God's message of sin. But that does not honor God, and that does not help sinners. God's faithful people always desire worship that directs them to confess their sins to Him, to hear of His love in Jesus for them, and to express in word and song their thanks to Him for His blessing, saving love.

Pastor Voss

OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE continues. There is be one Sunday service at **9:00 AM** beginning **May 29**. Most weeks there will be a **Thursday evening service at 7:00** which will be the same as the following Sunday's service. The first Thursday evening service is **May 26**. (No Thursday evening service July 7 and August 4 when Pastor Voss will be out of town.)

This summer schedule continues through Labor Day weekend.

NO THURSDAY SERVICE There won't be a Thursday evening service on either **July 7** or **August 4** since Pastor Voss will be on vacation those days.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL The dates for VBS are the mornings of **Monday, July 25 – Thursday, July 28**.

VBS will be for children **3 years old through entering 8th grade**. If you know of children in that age range, please invite them to attend our VBS. Contact Pastor Voss if you have questions about this summer's VBS.

IF YOU MISSED the *Let's Go* Bible study about personal evangelism in Bible Class late last fall, we are able to make the videos from the WELS Commission on Evangelism available to you. Speak to Pastor Voss if you want him to send you the WELS link for those videos.

THANKOFFERING STATEMENTS BY EMAIL? Karl Remus, elected as our Financial Secretary, is willing to provide your quarterly thankoffering statement by email, if you so desire. Doing so will save some paper but is certainly not expected.

If you would like to try getting your quarterly statements for 2022 by email, please send an email message to Karl at remuskarl77@outlook.com and to make things easier for Karl, include your email address in the body of your message to him.

REFRESHMENT HOURS will be held after the worship service **the first Sunday of each month this summer**. A sign up sheet is posted for volunteers to host the refreshment hour on **July 3, August 7, or September 4**. It would be great if three families volunteer for each day.

The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship encourages hosts to keep refreshments simple.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS when worship service music is recorded to operate the laptop by *touching the spacebar at the appropriate time*. Please speak to Pastor Voss if you want to know more about what this work entails. It is really very easy. Everything is set up for you.

LUGNUT GAME We have reserved a block of bleacher seat tickets for our church and school families and their friends to attend the game **Friday, September 9 at 7:00**. There will be a fireworks display after the game. Please look for the signup sheet at church to let us know how many from your family plan to attend.

USE OF CHURCH/SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT: We remind you that members of the congregation may make use of our spacious school grounds, our tables and chairs, and our fellowship hall for picnic and family gatherings.

Please contact Todd Loeffler (517-243-37349) to request a reservation of a facility and/or equipment.



REQUEST: The Ladies Fellowship kindly requests that if you have any pinecones (any size) and any empty tin cans (the sizes like coffee used to come in) that you could donate, we have need of them for some projects we would like to do. Please speak to Jill Briggs or Laurie Voss if you have any questions or have something to donate. Thank you in advance.



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – WELS news – congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) across WELS are ahead of CMO for the first five months of 2021 and are ahead of the prorated amount promised to WELS for 2022. The Michigan District congregations have contributed to that WELS CMO in amounts ahead of 2021 and of subscribed totals for the district.

When nominations for district officers were called for at the Michigan District Convention last month, I asked the delegates not to use my name since I will reach age 67 before the 2024 district convention and will likely retire from the ministry before a two-year term would be completed. Elected to office: Pastor Snowden Sims of St. Paul – Columbus, OH (re-elected as District President), Pastor Thomas Westra of Beautiful Savior – Cincinnati, OH (1st Vice President), Pastor Mark Voss of Divine Grace – Lake Orion, MI (2nd Vice President), and Pastor Jason Baldwin of Hope – St. Charles, MI (Secretary).

The delegates of our circuit elected Pastor Samuel Hacker of Grace – Flint as our circuit pastor, replacing Pastor Johnson, who is retiring the end of June.

I've been asked by the Michigan District officers to take time these next two months bringing the district's newest vice president up to speed on the duties assigned to him, duties that I've been carrying out for the district and synod since my election as vice president in 2010.

Since the Board of Christian Education had its June meeting before the end of the school year, here is a brief item update about the projected enrollment for 2022-2023. Since we have not been informed about any grade 1-5 students *not* returning next year, and with the board accepting on June 5 an application for a new 1st grade student, we expect Judy to have 25 students – room capacity. Karla has been in contact with 2 families who are interested in enrolling Preschool and Kindergarten children, but from whom we have not yet received applications. Karla's classes are close to capacity, too.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – *Projected enrollment for 2022-23: 3-year-olds – 4, 4-year-olds – 3 or 4, K – 7 or 8, Gr. 1-5 – 25*

Grades 1-5 Judy prepared for recognition, report cards, and other end-of-the-year items. One 5th grade student graduated.

Pre-school and Kindergarten Karla prepared for recognition, K graduation, and other end-of-the-year things. Three Kindergarten students graduated.

General - We thank the volunteers for their hard work on flower beds by school entrance and around the sign near Sherwood Road.

Students covered 667.5 miles in the Sparrow Wellness program April 11 – May 27.

\$380.70 from this school year's mission thankofferings deposited in PTO account. Darlene Dawley wrote a check for that amount to WELS Mission.

The board thanks Bryan Grinnell for the use of his equipment for our school plays.

Upcoming events - **July 25-28** – VBS, **August 15 or 16** – Registration, **August 23** – Classes begin

Add upper grade teacher for 2023-24 school year Ongoing discussions took place regarding tuition needed to cover the cost of a potential 6-8 grades teacher and principal. All scenarios were reviewed. The board will meet in July to have this singular topic worked on and plan detailed.

Sunday School Extended calls for 2022-23 Sunday school year.

Vacation Bible School Calls were extended. We anticipate 4 or 5 classroom levels.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Elders discussed our summer worship schedule. Due to Pastor Voss being on vacation, there will be no Thursday evening worship service on July 7 and August 4. Retired Pastor Schwab will conduct worship service on Sunday August 7.

The Organist and HymnSoft schedules for July through December have been prepared. We continue to seek volunteers to operate HymnSoft for our worship services.

The Elders continue to monitor and review our Communion service practices to ensure they are held as efficiently and safely as possible.

Steve Houser agreed to be our lay delegate at the Michigan District Convention. We thank Steve for his willingness to serve.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We still will urge members to share service links with others.

We discussed the “Let’s Go!” evangelism material and members are encouraged to ask that the video links be sent to them.

We are thankful for all our thankoffering counters and their work.

We discussed a church and school group outing to a Luginut game in early September.

We discussed the first Sunday of the month summer refreshment hour hosts.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – The shrubs along the sidewalk at Church will be removed later this summer.

Thank you, Pat, for installing the new water fountain at School.

Thank you to Bob Janecke for his many years of faithful lawn mowing at Church.

The new gutters with leaf guard system were installed on Church and Parsonage on May 26.

Steve Hauser and Pastor are planning to stain the parsonage deck later this summer.

We are working on finalizing the additional one-year contract extension with Little Leap Daycare.

Thank you for all the faithful service to our Savior and for his Church!

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JULY SERVICES:

<u>9:00</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
7/03 - #6 J. Zoran	K. Leitz	H&S Clark	D&C Kasischke
7/10 - #7 D. Kasischke	M. Zoran	D&C Kasischke	J&K Leitz
7/17 - #8 D. Rector	K. Ward	D&S Rector	T&L Loeffler
7/24 - #9 D. Fisher	S. Rector	K&J Douglas	F&N Mills
7/31 - #10 B. Briggs	L. Voss	T&L Loeffler	J. Muscott

