

# Memorial Messenger

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On most Sundays, after we are reminded that we begin worship in the name of the almighty holy and majestic Triune God, we confess our sins. Together we begin, “Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you . . .”

I admit to having a variety of thoughts when speaking those words. Sometimes I recite them without thinking much at all. They are routine words that tumble from my lips in the same way the Lord’s Prayer sometimes becomes a series of words spoken so often I don’t think about them. Another sin to add to my list.

My list of “thoughts, words, and actions” also comes to mind. I can’t recall all that I have done wrong. There simply are too many of them. They are all lumped together and confessed as the sins I have done and the good I left undone. For them I pray, “Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.” Another series of thoughts comes when I say that I am “by nature sinful.” I remember David’s confession, “Surely I was sinful at birth” ([Psalm 51:5](#)). I think of Isaiah who stood in the presence of God and said, “I am a man of unclean lips” ([Isaiah 6:5](#)), or the words from the book of Job describing a human being as “only a worm” ([Job 25:6](#)). I confess that I am worse than the enumeration of wrongs I have committed against God and others. I am thoroughly corrupt by nature.

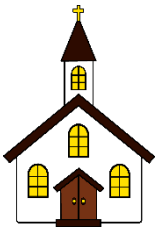
I think, perhaps, there should be another series of thoughts because I stand with others who say the same words. I don’t know their thoughts, but we all stand before God as we are—sinners with our imperfections and acknowledging that we are flawed and defective—not at all as God created our first parents. We come knowing that we have no business standing before a righteous, almighty God. I wonder if this last thought is important for another reason. We invite visitors to worship with us. When we confess our sins publicly, are we telling these visitors that we aren’t better than others as so many imagine? We come before God with our faults, sins, fears, doubts, trials, troubles, mistakes, guilt, and fears. We challenge visitors to see us that way and invite them to join us with their lists and the simple prayer, “Have mercy on me, a sinner.” No pretenses, no pride, just recognizing we are all sinners in this condition together.

But then. Then we hear the answer to our humble prayer. We hear that “God . . . has given his only Son as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.” I have come into God’s house just to hear this news again: My sins are forgiven because of Jesus. I remember that Jesus was like me—and all of us—except without sin. In prophecy he even claimed to be like us. David has the Messiah say, “I am a worm and not a man. . . . All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads” ([Psalm 22:6,7](#)). He took our place. His blood cleanses us (cf. [1 John 1:7](#)). I hear Jesus say to me the words he spoke to the paralytic, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven” ([Matthew 9:2](#)).

Why do these thoughts come to my mind now? I have been reading some authors who do not share the treasure we all possess. They believe they can keep the commandments, be holy, and earn an audience with God. I choose simply to pray, “Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner” and receive the undeserved gift of forgiveness.

**SUMMER WORSHIP** hours are in full swing. There will be one service on Sundays only, @ 9:00 AM.

**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

**PASTOR CALL** The Holy Spirit, working through the voters of our congregation, has called Rev Ross Else from Phoenix, AZ to serve as pastor of Memorial Ev. Lutheran Church. We **encourage** members to reach out to Pastor Else at [pastor@emmauslutheran.com](mailto:pastor@emmauslutheran.com), with additional contact information in the call acknowledgment letter posted on the bulletin board.

*"I ask the Lord of the Church to richly bless these deliberations to His glory and for the good of His dearly loved people. I also look forward to chatting with you about the work of the kingdom in and around Williamston, and the needs of God's saints at Memorial". The Lord bless and keep you all.*

We ask the Lord of the Church to be with Pastor Else, his wife, and their children as he prayerfully considers the two divine calls that he now has.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** on July 22-25<sup>th</sup> for this year's Vacation Bible School! It will be held from 9:30-11:30am each day. We plan to have instruction from God's Word for children **3 years old** through those **students entering 8<sup>th</sup> grade**.



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR** grandparent age Memorial members to help us out for VBS on *Thursday, July 25*, from 9:30-11:30 am at the school. We will have a devotion, craft time, a snack, and an opportunity to help kids serve. If you have questions, speak to Kathy Fedewa or Judy Domke.

**SOCCER CAMP** Please see the posting on the bulletin board and grab a *brochure on the counter* for the details of the camp, also on **July 22-24** but in the evening. Register your children and invite unchurched children (4 years – 6<sup>th</sup> grade) to this free outreach event at [www.zionlansing.com](http://www.zionlansing.com)

**GOT PLANS ON** July 8<sup>th</sup>? You do now! Head on over to Culver's in Okemos *from 5-9pm* for a Butterburger, cheese curds or yummy frozen custard, and a percentage of the sales will be donated to our school's PTO fund. Dine in or drive thru both count, and what a delicious way to support Memorial Lutheran School.



**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 ELDERS:

- The playlist/organist schedule for July through December has been distributed. Thank you to the volunteers who serve our Savior and His Church in this way!
- The Elders thank our voice choir members for beautifying our June 2nd worship service.
- Sean Kuhl has presented himself for adult confirmation

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

- Mowing at school has started. Thank you, Todd Loeffler for creating the schedule and Victor Domke for the maintenance on the mower.
- 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 still will urge members to share service links with others
- Plan to show WELS connection on 3rd Sunday of the month, when we can.
- Will continue to have the smaller 1 Sunday a month refreshments after the service.
- We would like to thank all those that helped with the once-a-month refreshments

### BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

- We 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.
- The 2023-2024 school year enrollment was consistent at 36 students.

### SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JULY SERVICES:

|       | <u>Ushers</u>          | <u>Altar Guild</u> | <u>Playlist</u> | <u>Greeter(s)</u> | <u>Cleaners</u>           |
|-------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 07/07 | S. Houser, Z. Pederson | Sheryl Arnston     | Leah Domke      | H & S Clark       | (to be done 07/06) Fedewa |
| 07/14 | A. Rusnak, P. Jantos   | Kathy Ward         | Guest Organist  | D & S Rector      | (to be done 07/13) Fisher |
| 07/21 | T. Loeffler, J. Zoran  | Karla Leitz        | Nancy Hart      | K & J Douglas     | (to be done 07/20) Fortin |
| 07/28 | D. Rector, K. Remus    | Marlene Zoran      | Jill Coulter    | T & L Loeffler    | (to be done 07/27) Hoag   |