



MEMORIAL MESSENGER June 2022



But you, O man of God, flee from these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith. Take hold of eternal life, to which you were called and about which you made your good confession in the present of many witnesses. *1 Timothy 6:11-12*

Dear Christian graduate,

That's not a greeting just for seniors in college and high school. Every believer in Jesus is a *graduate*. The word *graduate* comes from a word meaning *step*. It's an accurate description of one who has completed formal education and is taking the next *step* in life. It's an appropriate word for taking the *step* from one level of education to another. It's an excellent word for believers every day: another *step* along the path to heaven.

It is in that last sense that we encourage one another as dear believers in Jesus!

Dear Christian graduate,

Today is a new day in the life God has granted you. Your sins of the past are forgiven in Christ and with His help you put them behind you. "*Flee from these things.*" Your days in the future are filled with blessings from the Triune God. "*Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance and gentleness.*" God directs your *steps* in life, graduate! He directs you away from sin and along the paths of His gifts of grace. In that sense, every day is Graduation Day for believers as we *step*, as we walk, with God.

Your future is not an uncertain shot in the dark. The Holy Spirit has given you the priceless gift "*of faith*" that trusts only Christ Jesus for forgiveness now and for heaven forever. Our Heavenly Father has promised us His inheritance "*of eternal life*" to come in heaven. The Savior suffered in our place, and the Father credits the Son's payment to our account. In that sense, every day is Graduation Day for believers as we *step* with God.

To you who are graduates of a school this spring we extend our Christian congratulations! The Lord God has given you a keen mind and a mature attitude, and you've used both to His glory during your education. Keep that up as you move to another school or to the work world, *graduating* and *stepping* with God every day. In Him alone your life has meaning and fulfillment; in Him alone your soul has forgiveness and heaven.

To you who are looking back this spring to the year you finished school we repeat the divine reminder: *You aren't finished walking with God!* Every day we *graduate* and *step* with Him. Keep that at heart as you plan each day, set priorities, move forward in the confidence and unending gifts only Christ brings.

Christian graduate – that's every believer! – *step* forward humbly aware of your sins and unfailingly trusting God's grace in Jesus. Such are the *steps* God's children take each day. Such are the *steps* that set us apart from the rest of the world. Such are the *steps* by which God makes us His *graduates*.

Pastor Voss

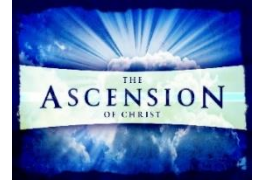




OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE begins *Memorial Day weekend*. There will be one Sunday service at **9:00 AM** beginning **May 29**. Most weeks there will be a **Thursday evening service at 7:00** which will be the same as the following Sunday's service. The first Thursday evening service is **May 26**. (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.

THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SAVIOR'S ASCENSION into heaven as the victorious Son of God will be part of the worship services on **Thursday, May 26 and Sunday, May 29**. Join us at one of those services for this important festival of the Christian church year!



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR CONGREGATION'S GRADUATES this spring! We pray that the Lord will bless your continuing education or the beginning of the career for which you have been trained!

THE CLOSING SERVICE for our 2021-22 Lutheran Elementary School year will be **Thursday, June 2 at 6:00 PM** and will be held **at our school**.

5TH GRADE GRADUATION AND KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION After that Thursday, June 2 service, there will be a brief ceremony acknowledging the successful academic work done by our **graduating 5th grade students**, and following that presentation will our annual **Kindergarten presentation**.

STUDENT RECOGNITION The last day of school is used to recognize our students' accomplishments during the year. The Student Recognition for Kindergarten – 5th Grade will be **Friday morning, June 3 at about 9:00**.

Parents, please note that classes dismiss for the summer that day at 12:00.

WE GIVE OUR DEEP THANKS to our Sunday School teachers for their faithful service to teach Christ's lambs this school year: Kathy Fedewa and Nora Stanton, as well Laurie Voss for her work teaching songs to the students. We also thank the students, parents, and grandparents for their participation.

REFRESHMENT HOURS will be held after the worship service **the first Sunday of each month this summer**. A signup sheet is posted for volunteers to host the refreshment hour on **June 5, July 3, August 7, or September 4**. It would be great if three families volunteer for each day.

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



LADIES FELLOWSHIP We will meet **Monday, June 13, at 10:00 AM** at the home of Terri C. We are going to discuss ideas for items to include for a spring mission fundraiser next year. We will also have our fundraiser in November, as always, this year.

Terri will provide refreshments, but you are invited to also bring something to share. Join us. Please speak to Terri or Laurie for her address.

IF YOU MISSED the *Let's Go* Bible study about personal evangelism in Bible Class earlier this school year, we are able to make the videos from the WELS Commission on Evangelism available to you via email. Speak to Pastor Voss if you want him to send you 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.

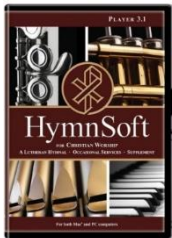
If you would like to try getting your quarterly statements for 2022 by email, please send an email message to Karl at remuskarl77@outlook.com and to make things easier for Karl, include your email address in the body of your message to him.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Our Board of Christian Education has set the dates for this year's Vacation Bible School: ***the mornings of July 25-28***. Sessions will be held each of those four mornings. We plan to have instruction for children **3 years old** through those students **entering 8th grade**.



PASTOR JOHNSON of Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church in Perry will retire from the ministry at the end of June. Members of our congregation are invited to the service at which the Lord of the Church will be praised for the blessings granted during Pastor Johnson's ministry. The service will be ***June 26 at 3:00***.

You are also invited to a dinner at **5:00** that Sunday afternoon. If you plan to attend the meal, please let Pastor Voss know **by June 5**. Pastor Voss has been asked to let Our Savior congregation know how many from our congregation will be attending the meal.



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.

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 – Our Catechism Class sessions concluded for the school year on May 19.

One Bible Instruction Class with a husband and wife at their home continues. I may try to meet with them twice a week if schedules can be arranged.

WELS news: Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) throughout the synod continue to be strong and are above the previous year's amount through April. However, for the first time in several years, last month's CMO from Michigan District congregations was below the amount for the same month in the previous year.

We have received registration information for the 2022 Michigan District Convention at MLS in Saginaw from Monday afternoon, June 6 until Wednesday noon, June 8.

The service at which Pastor Scott Mosher, a son of our congregation, will be installed as pastor of Zion,

our sister congregation in Lansing, was postponed to Sunday afternoon, May 22. The postponement from May 15 was due to illnesses in Pastor Mosher's family.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment in 2021-22 is 36 and unchanged. Three kindergarten applications for 2022-2023 were accepted. All are students moving up from our preschool and we expect 3 or 4 more of those applications to be submitted. One new preschool application was accepted.

Mrs. Domke prepared students to sing for the April 29th Lutheran grade school sacred concert at Salem in Owosso.

Students in all grades compiled impressive results in the Feeling Good Mileage Club program sponsored by Sparrow.

We discussed aides for the current year and the upcoming year for preschool and kindergarten, as well as tuition reductions for the families of the aides, if applicable.

June 2 is the school year closing service to be held at school at 6:00 PM.

The spring meeting for PTO was held April 19. Main items of discussion were the 2022-2023 proposed school year calendar and adding grades 6-8 to our school's instruction for the 2023-24 school year. The board presented possible tuition rates if we proceed with calling an upper-grades teacher (between \$2500 and \$4000). We also informed the parents that right now there is very little room in the General Fund to provide any more subsidy for students.

The board spent a lot of time once again looking at projected enrollment for K-8 in the 2023-24 school year and beyond, should we add grades 6-8. We also discussed future technology needs for grades 5-8.

Sunday School attendance certificates for students and appreciation certificates for the teachers were prepared and presented.

The 2022-2023 school calendar was adopted by the board.

Vacation Bible school will be held July 25-28.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Elders thank all who worked on special music for our Good Friday and Easter Sunday worship services.

The Elders thank our members and ushers for adopting to communion side-by-side on the sanctuary floor.

The Elders continue to monitor and review our communion services to ensure they are held as efficiently 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 encourage parents and members to submit photos of school and church activities for posting on our website and/or Facebook page.

Instead of an all-day study of the *Let's Go!* materials on personal evangelism, Pastor Voss will send interested members the video presentations that were studied in Bible Class earlier.

We thank all who provided things to eat and drink for the first-Sunday refreshments this Sunday School year!

We are planning to reserve a block of tickets for church and school families for the Lansing Lugnuts game **Friday, September 9.**

The board hosted a Lent supper April 6. Pizza, mostaccioli, and macaroni & cheese fed about 30 before the Lent service that evening.

We will have summer refreshment hours the first Sundays of June, July, August, and September. A sign-up is being posted. The board encourages hosts to keep the refreshments simple.

We give thanks to the Lord during the Easter breakfast for providing the means and the motivation to retire our debt.

A new WELS grant opportunity grant may be applied to efforts to provide food, clothing, or shelter

directly to needy persons in our community. We await more information that we expect to be presented at the Michigan District Convention.

The board discussed a church picnic on Sunday, September 11.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – The board recommends the insurance policy for properties and workers compensation be converted to Lutheran Brotherhood. This conversion would result a \$900 annual savings.

The board recommends the replacement of gutters on the church parsonage. The project will be completed by Sunrise Seamless; total cost is \$2,101. The project scope includes installation of new gutters, leaf guards, one downspout, and all labor costs.

The board recommends the replacement of the west side gutter at the church. The project will be completed by Sunrise Seamless; total cost is \$984. The project scope includes installation of new gutter, leaf guard, one downspout, and all labor costs.

We reviewed the inquiry to remove the shrubs along the sidewalk at church. We agree it is time for the shrubs to be removed. Please follow up with the board if there are any volunteers willing to do this project.

We thank the family who donated the water fountain for the school. Pat is strategizing on the best way to install it.

Thank you, Bob Janecke for agreeing to mow the lawn at church this summer.

Thank you, to all the volunteers for agreeing to mow the lawn at the school this summer.

We discussed the trees at school:

- a. Victor has secured a burning permit for burning brush at school.
- b. Victor will be grinding the stumps from the trees he recently removed.
- c. The two maples behind school that have been stressed are showing very little improvement from last year. If they do not improve, they will be removed next winter.

We discussed the deterioration of the parking lots.

Thank you to everyone who assisted with spring cleaning week at church and school.

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



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN

This past month we have been learning in our Bible lessons that the Israelites would go back and forth between following the one true God and then worshipping false gods. We learn that for this reason God would sometimes allow enemies to attack and even to remove people from the Israelite homes. However, in this way God used these Israelite people to teach unbelievers about Him. For example the young girl that helped Naaman by sharing her faith, and the three men being willing to die in a fiery furnace so that they would not go against what the one true God commanded. We learn that we also want to live our lives in this manner to put God above all else and also to share our faith with everyone around us.

The preschool and kindergarten had a great time putting on our play “Goldie and the Bears”. Thank you to all of you that attended! We also have had fun participating in the Sparrow Mileage club again this year. For the first time we had most of our Kindergarten run 20 miles and receive the water bottle and even some of our preschool ran as much as they were able to and got five miles or a little over! That's a lot for their little legs and only being here in the morning for a few days a week.

We also have studied the life cycle of butterflies and ladybugs this year and were able to watch it happen right in front of us with live caterpillars and lady bugs. We released them out in the garden in front of school.

It's always bittersweet at the end of the year to say good bye to one group. I'm thankful to God and to all the congregational support that I have been able to share the good news of Jesus every day to these little souls.

May you all have a blessed summer.

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5

In our study of God's Word we have been studying the time in the Old Testament when the children of God were carried into captivity by the Assyrians and Babylonians. We learned about the amazing things God did to keep his people alive and well, and how many Jews were faithful and were not deterred when faced with life threatening situations. We think of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and Esther. May God grant us such a strong faith!

Our plays were so much fun and such a joy to share with so many! Thanks to all who helped in any way and to those who were able to attend. We are most grateful for your support.

Our class has nearly made the twenty mile mark for each person in the Sparrow Mileage Club! Everyone has worked hard and enjoyed the challenge.

*Editor note: Please view our school's Facebook page to see photos and to go to the website photo gallery for even more pictures from this school year. <https://www.facebook.com/MemorialLutheranSchoolWilliamston>
https://www.memorialwilliamston.org/site/galdisplay.asp?sec_id=180015490&gallery_id=180016504&caption=&galname=2021-2022%20School%20Year&galpath=/home/180015141/180015490/images/*



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JUNE SERVICES:

<u>9:00</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>School Lawn Mowing</u>
6/05 - #2 V. Domke	S. Unruh	V&J Domke	D&R Hoag	D. Fortin
6/12 - #3 Joe Janecke	L. Voss	L. Tobia	S. Houser	T. Fortin
6/19 - #4 Jim Janecke	R. Olin	G. Withey	B. Janecke	Jim Janecke
6/26 - #5 S. Houser	R. Hoag	J&S Janecke	J&S Janecke	N. Schlicker

