



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

June 2023



1948-2023

As a prisoner in the Lord, therefore, I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called. Live with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your calling. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all. Ephesians 4:1-6

As the history of our congregation's founding is retold during our celebration June 4, you will be touched by and marvel at the persistence the charter members had. They refused to give up, even when – humanly speaking – it seemed the Lord of the Church didn't want a Lutheran church in Williamston.

But our 75th Anniversary isn't celebrated to glorify people who founded the congregation. Our 75th Anniversary Sunday will be, like every other one nearly 4,000 Sundays in our history since May 16, 1948, a celebration to give all glory to our gracious God and Savior.

That's what we read above in excerpts from a letter by a pastor to a congregation he formerly served. Things weren't going well for Paul when he wrote to the church in Ephesus. He was in prison for preaching what he had declared daily to the Ephesians: *Christ is the crucified and risen Savior for every sinner*. Paul did not tell the believers there to back off on that belief lest they end up in prison, too. He urged them to remain anchored in the God who had called them to saving faith in Jesus. Paul did not praise the Ephesians for being faithful to the Lord and for their hard work. He praised God who had done great things for them and among them.

That will be our 75th Anniversary spirit! June 4 will not be for us just a day to remember the past and appreciate what the founding families of Memorial did. Far more important, it will be for us a day to give all glory to the Triune God who has given us so much, as well as to rededicate ourselves to serving Him.

We will compare pictures of our how our church and school properties looked in their early years with how they look today. We will marvel, *God has blessed us richly!* But the extent of God's grace to us isn't measured in property value or building square footage or any other numbers. The legacy we have received, and which we are to use, is this: *maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in the one hope of your calling. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in us all.*

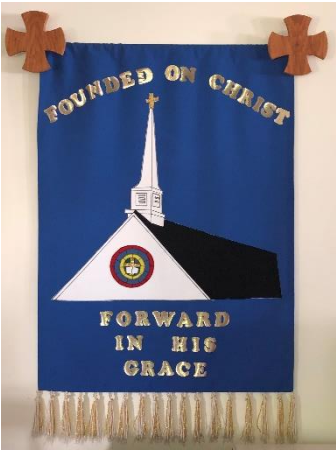
Our congregation is not a religious club to which we belong. It is a part of the vital work the Savior does in His world. We celebrate our anniversary to remember the past and be renewed for the present – and future. We gather to remind each other what God has done here, and what He still uses His Means of Grace to do here.

It's not celebrations, activities, projects, or friendly people. None of that does God's work. God does His work through His pure Word and His sacraments. As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, our encouragement to one another is to keep working with what the Lord has given us and keep working with all we really need: His message of the Savior crucified for us and risen to reign in us!

Pastor Voss

OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE begins *Memorial Day weekend*. There will be one Sunday service at **9:00 AM** beginning **May 28**. 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 25**.

This summer schedule will continue through Labor Day weekend.



75 YEARS OF GRACE Our congregation was founded May 16, 1948. For 75 years the Triune God has poured out His abundant blessings on us!

We will mark our 75th Anniversary during the June 1 & 4 worship services. After the worship service **Sunday, June 4** there will be a potluck brunch in the church fellowship hall. The meal will be followed by a program with presentations, photos, opening of the time capsule from our 50th Anniversary in 1993, and more.

Join us as we celebrate God's blessings to us through His church and school. **Join us! Invite friends and family members who have been part of our history to attend as well!**

WE GIVE OUR DEEP THANKS to our Sunday School teachers for their faithful service to teach Christ's lambs this school year: Hannah Domke, 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.

THE CLOSING SERVICE for our 2022-23 Lutheran Elementary School year will be **Friday, June 2 at 8:30 PM** and will be held **at our school**.

After that service there will be a brief ceremony acknowledging the successful academic work done by our **graduating 5th Grade students**, our annual **Kindergarten presentation**, and the recognition of the work done by all our students this school year. You are all invited to join us at school for the morning!

Parents, please note that classes dismiss at **noon** on the last day of school.



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!

UPPER GRADES TEACHER FOR 2023-24 The five divine calls that the Holy Spirit used our congregation to extend for an experienced WELS teacher to serve as our upper grades teacher and principal were all returned. Our request of the WELS Assignment Committee to have a teach graduate candidate from Martin Lutheran College be assigned as our upper grades teacher was not able to be filled (along with 113 other requests throughout WELS for teacher graduates).

As of this writing our Board of Christian Education and faculty is preparing for a meeting to discuss and recommendations options for filling this position for one year, allowing us to begin calling for a principal and upper grades teacher again in October.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP will meet **Monday, June 5 at 10:00**. We will continue our work on organizing church and school pictures and placing them in albums.



RETIREMENT Pastor Voss has announced his intent to retire from the full time pastoral ministry on October 31, 2023, and Laurie Voss will retire from her office secretary duties around the end of August 2023. She will work with her replacement (several boards are considering candidates) to get the new office secretary familiar with the routine, where things are, etc.

PASTORAL VACANCY This summer Michigan District President, Pastor Snowden Sims of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church – Columbus, Ohio, will schedule a pre-call meeting with our congregation’s members. At that meeting he will gather input from you about what you think are our congregation’s strengths and weaknesses, blessings and challenges, and so forth. He will use that input to prepare a list of pastors for a divine call meeting in the future, and/or to consider a pastor graduate candidate for assignment to Memorial.

The final part of the pre-call meeting might include calling to order a brief meeting of our congregation’s voters. At that special meeting the voters will decide whether the congregation should call an experienced pastor from the field or wait until Spring 2024 to request a pastor graduate candidate to fill the vacancy.

President Sims will also work with our circuit pastor, Pastor Sam Hacker of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church – Flint, Michigan, to suggest a pastor to cover the pastoral vacancy here beginning November 1.

REFRESHMENT HOURS will be held after the worship service *the first Sunday of each month this summer*. A sign up sheet will be posted for volunteers to host the refreshment hour on **July 2, August 6, or September 3**. It would be great if three families volunteer for each day.

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



NEEDED CONFIRMATION PICTURES The Ladies Fellowship, in connection with making a complete album of pictures of youth confirmation classes from our church history, is asking for your help.

If you have a picture that you could give us from any of the following years, please give that to Pastor or Laurie. (*Preferably not larger than 5X7".*)

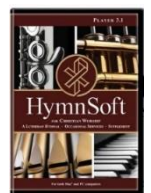
1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015

If you have forgotten what year you were confirmed, please check the list of confirmands and their year on the bulletin board at church.



CHURCH LIBRARY We invite you to use our church library this summer as you enjoy perhaps a more relaxed schedule or the beautiful weather. There are books for all ages and all genres. A list of books is on our website and posted on the east side of the library shelves. Check out procedures are listed there as well. The church library is a valuable resource.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS to operate the computer when worship service music is recorded. Please speak to Pastor Voss if you want to know more about what this work entails.



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 (517-243-7349) to request a reservation of a facility and/or equipment.

IF YOU HAVE ACCESS to the internet and get the *Memorial Messenger* that way, please let us know and we will no longer print a copy for you.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

PASTOR'S REPORT – One Bible Instruction Class began in late April with the sister of one of our members. We meet at church early afternoon each Tuesday. Another Bible Instruction Class may begin this month with a young couple whose daughter has been accepted as a preschool student for 2023-2024.

Mr. Hesse informed me 90 minutes before our April 25 voters meeting that he was returning our divine call to serve as our upper grades teacher and principal. Subsequently our congregation's request through the voters that evening for a male graduate from MLC to be assigned as our upper grades teacher was submitted to Pastor Snowden Sims, Michigan District President. There will be more requests for graduates than there will be candidates available.

I submitted a letter about retirement plans. The letter is dated May 2, 2023. Our plan is for me to retire from the full time pastoral ministry on October 31, 2023, and for Laurie to step down from her office secretary duties around the end of August 2023. She will work with her replacement (several boards last week considered candidates) to get the new office secretary familiar with the routine, where things are, etc. If you have questions for me about the pre-call meeting that District President Sims will have with the congregation at a later date, I'll provide answers based on similar meetings I've conducted in other congregations over the years.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment unchanged. Applications for enrollment for 2023-24 school for students moving from our Preschool to our Kindergarten were accepted.

School Promotion Considering adding "preschool" to our sign at school.

Grades 1-5 Students are working on classroom play. Judy prepared students to sing for April 28 Lutheran grade school sacred concert. We discussed classroom size for next school year.

Preschool and Kindergarten Students are working on classroom play.

General school items Discussed lock down security ideas / offers after April 18 PTO meeting.

PTO Our outgoing PTO treasurer will work with new treasurer to account access.

Fund raising PTO will operate a concession stand at MSU football concessions for all 7 games. Culver's Share Night was May 8.

2023-24 School Year calendar Approved by the board after input from parents about the week of Spring Break.

After school care Several school families have expressed an interest in care at school when Preschool classes dismiss at 11:30 and/or after the rest of students are dismissed at 3:30. The board is asking for all interested families to let us know how often they would use such a service.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Our summer service schedule will begin Thursday, May 25. The Thursday services are a preview of the following Sunday morning service. Due to Pastor's vacation plans, there will be no Thursday service on July 6 or August 3.

We thank our choir director and accompanist and singers for using their God-given talents to edify our Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday services.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed a backpack/school supplies donation drive for early August as an outreach event.

We thank all the families that hosted the refreshments in between services the first Sundays of the month during the school year.

We reviewed and recapped the Easter breakfast.

We finalized plans for the 75th Anniversary of the congregation. It will be held in the worship services June 1 & 4. After the 9:00 worship service Sunday, June 4, there will be a potluck brunch, program about the

congregation's history, speakers, the opening of the time capsule from 1998 at our 50th Anniversary, and the submitting to that time capsule items from our area and church and school from this spring to be opened and viewed at our congregation's 100th Anniversary in 2048. Our office secretary will be posting some things on Facebook about next month's 75th Anniversary. ***We urge members to sign up so we know how many plan to attend.***

New greeter schedule has been prepared and distributed.

Will have the 1st Sunday of the month refreshments during the summer. A sign-up sheet for July 2 and August 6 and September 3 will be posted right after June 4.

Discussed purchase of digital frame to which we would download photos of our members that our members will submit.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Discussed the following projects to be completed this summer:

- a. With weather getting better discussed looking for the air leak on the middle heating and cooling unit on school roof.
- b. Completion of the sidewalk landscaping at church.
- c. School roof needs a new application of silicone and screws tightened, southwest side where the roof intersects with the gym/or entry.
- d. Power washing the south side of church.
- e. Repairing the power door that is not closing properly at the top of the ramp entrance at church.
- f. Parking lot resealing at church and school.

Lawn mowing at church and school is going well, Thank you to all the mowing volunteers.

Monthly discussion on facilities usage.

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



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN

This month we have been learning about how Jesus sent the disciples out into the world to teach and preach the good news. We have learned that the Holy Spirit strengthened them and that He does the same for us. We have learned that some of the disciples died for proclaiming their faith. We don't have to face the same physical persecution at this time for proclaiming our faith and we are thankful for that. The students learned that the Holy Spirit is very powerful and can change hearts and uses many of us to do His will every day. No matter what the devil does to stop God's Word from spreading, God's will is ALWAYS done!

The preschool and kindergarten enjoyed a Mother's Day celebration with a Mother's Day Tea at school. They performed "The Family Goats Gruff" play, and we went to the Potter Park Zoo. The Preschool will receive certificates on the last Wednesday of the school year. The Kinders will receive theirs on the very last day of the school year.

The year always goes too fast and as always thank you for your prayers and support for our school and little ones here. It's a privilege to be able to teach these little ones the Word of God every day! May you all have a wonderfully blessed summer!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5

This month in our study of God's Word we have traveled with the disciples and apostles as they received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and began their post-Ascension preaching and teaching. The Word spread rapidly, despite persecution, because the Lord of the church blessed those efforts. He blesses our efforts, too, as we

share what we know to be true from the Bible. We pray that God continues to use us to spread that Word cheerfully!

We had a fantastic time presenting our play to friends, neighbors, and congregation members last Friday! Everything went well. We are thankful for all the people that pitched in to help make the day so much fun and a real success. Thanks to all who attended!

Our art show at school was also pretty cool. Mrs. Chaffee and Mrs. Lewis hung art from each student in the long hall and play attendees were able to enjoy it all as they entered the gym. We also had on display many of the maps we drew for social studies class this year.

Next week we will travel to Brighton for our end of the year field trip. Thanks to Mrs. Husby for setting that up for us. We are going to work with succulents!

Have a great summer!



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR JUNE SERVICES:

9:00

6/04 - #8 D. Rector

6/11 - #9 D. Fisher

6/18 - #10 B. Briggs

6/25 - #1 T. Marion

K. Ward

R. Olin

L. Voss

Altar Guild

K. Leitz

J&S Janecke

H&S Clark

D&S Rector

Greeter(s)

G. Withey

B&N Tobia

S&S Arntson

B&J Briggs

Cleaners

J&J Staffeld

