



MEMORIAL MESSENGER March 2023



God made Him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

What do you tell a person who's been diagnosed with inoperable cancer? What do you say when he asks, "What should I do before I die? What do I need to do in the few months I have left to be ready to meet God?"

You say, "Because Jesus became a sin offering in our place on the cross, heaven's door stands open to you, none of your sins are held against you, and God's verdict of 'Not guilty!' rests upon you!" The cancer-stricken one might argue, "No, you don't understand! I'm dying! I need to prepare for the afterlife! Don't give me Bible stories! Tell me what I need to take care of to get right with God!" Then you lovingly, simply retell the good news, "It's already done for you by Jesus! Your salvation is all taken care of!" What a joy to be used by God to deliver that most important message in all the world to one who won't be in this world much longer!

Not many of us know folks who are terminally ill. But all of us know people who are *spiritually* ill, who are still living in the darkness of unbelief, who see no need for the suffering and death of Jesus in their lives. They might well be very healthy, quite wealthy, extremely happy, wonderful people. But without Jesus in their heart, they are headed to hell. We all know people like that. What do we tell them? "Come with me to see and hear what the Savior has done for us to guarantee life forever!"

Our Lent services continue this month. We ask our members to think about people in their network of friends and relatives and acquaintances and neighbors who aren't taking the cross and empty grave of Jesus seriously or who see no need for the Savior in their lives. For their soul's sake, invite them to our Wednesday Lent services, our Good Friday and Easter Sunday services in early April – and then to keep coming to worship and to take with you the instruction class we offer. Let them know that the life and the death and the rising from the dead of Jesus for you has turned your life around – and you want them to have that blessing, too.

Those people may have objections or offer excuses. We suggest you tell them, "I can't take the chance that you'll never hear about the Savior again. I want you to have the peace I have. I want you to live forever. Jesus is the way – the only way! Come and hear what He has done for us!" We join you in trusting the Holy Spirit will do His work in His way with His good news and in His good time. The Triune God uses us to speak the words and to give the encouragement that He provides with His Word about His work for the world.

May He bless your worship this Lenten season and the upcoming Holy Week! May He bless your words to others about the Savior who became sin for us all so that we might wear His righteous robes forever!

Pastor Voss





THE WALK ALONG OUR SAVIOR'S path to His crucifixion continues the five **Wednesday evenings in March**. Lent worship services begin **at 7:00**.

Join us to praise God for the gift of salvation won by our Savior for us sinners in His life, death, and resurrection. Pastor Voss and other area WELS pastors will conduct the services under the theme: *The Power of the Cross*.

LENT SUPPER We plan to have a supper before the final Lent midweek service on **March 29**. Two families have already volunteered to bring food for the meal that evening.

If you can also help with food for that evening's meal, please speak to Joe Janecke, Jason Leitz, Karl Remus, or Pastor Voss.

DIVINE CALL On February 19 the Holy Spirit used the voters of our congregation to extend to Mr. Cameron Ausen the divine call to be our upper grades teacher and principal. Mr. Ausen is in his 10th year of the teaching ministry. He currently serves as teacher at Lakeside Lutheran High School in Lake Mills, Wisconsin.

We keep Mr. Ausen, his wife Katherine, and their young children in our prayers as he deliberates the two divine calls he now holds.

MRS. LEITZ DIVINE CALL DECISION Mrs. Leitz has declined the divine call she received to serve at St. Paul Lutheran Church & School in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin as teacher of Preschool 4-year-olds and to do some Preschool administrative work.

We are thrilled that Mrs. Leitz will continue to serve faithfully in our midst!



KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP / PRESCHOOL INFORMATION DAYS Our congregation's Board of Christian Education has decided that again this year our Kindergarten Roundup and Preschool Information days will be held individually with Mrs. Leitz as parents set up a time to meet at school.

If you know of a family interested in Preschool (children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1) or Kindergarten (children must be 5 years old by September 1) at our school for the 2023-2024 school year, please speak to Mrs. Leitz or Pastor Voss.

REFRESHMENTS are offered the first Sunday of each month during the school year. We are looking for refreshments hosts on **March 5, April 2, and May 1**.

If you are willing to provide something simple for any of those dates, please volunteer by speaking to Joe Janecke, Jason Leitz, Karl Remus, or Pastor Voss.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP will meet **Monday, March 7 at 10:00**. We have our devotion and then work on organizing our church history pictures and memorabilia.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins **Sunday, March 12!** Set your clocks ***ahead*** one hour before you go to bed **Saturday evening, March 11**.

CULVER'S SHARE NIGHT Our school families will volunteer at the Culver's on Times Square in Okemos **Monday, February 27** from **5:00 – 9:00**. Our school's PTO Fund will receive a portion of the Culver's receipts from that evening.

We invite you eat at Culver's that night, and to let your friends and loved ones know about the event.



MUSIC REHEARSALS We want to hold rehearsals to go music for Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. Rehearsals are not just for those who have previously sung in the choir, but for all who desire to sing. ***If you are willing to do so, please speak to Laurie or Pastor Voss.***

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 – Our school student body and faculty struggled with several absences each day in late January and early February due to prevalent illnesses. Reports from other area WELS schools and public schools indicate that we are not alone in dealing with widespread stomach flu. May God grant our school family better health soon.

WELS News: Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) submitted in 2022 reached another record level: \$23,330,000 (which is \$654,000 more than the previous record year of 2021). The 2022 total included \$3.3 million submitted to WELS in December (with the window kept open until January 9 for 2022 CMO to be submitted). We praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Plans for the midweek Lent services have been finalized. The four pastors of WELS congregations in Howell, Owosso (Pastor Bare is also serving as vacancy pastor of Our Savior – Perry), and Williamston will take turns conducting the services at those four congregations. Pastor Franck and I will each conduct two Lent services here.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – School Promotion Discussed Facebook posts to promote Preschool and Kindergarten roundup days.

Grades 1-5 Mrs. Domke is working with students in grades 3-5 who want to participate in MLS Science & Fine Arts Fair on Saturday, March 4, and is coordinating a trip to MLS for the Children's Theater play on Friday, March 10. Several students in grades 3-5 won a contest with the local fire department. The prize was a ride on a fire truck to the station for lunch with the crew.

Preschool and Kindergarten Mrs. Leitz has several visits lined up this month for prospective students for next year. Karla's desire is to invite new families to tour the school, meet her, ask questions, etc. one family at a time instead of one-time Kindergarten round up, and the board supports this plan. We are beginning to promote that via Facebook. Karla will likely have a one-morning event for her 4-year-old preschool students to have a Kindergarten round up together. Karla is working on getting the required paperwork and other items submitted for the renewal of our preschool license. She will likely have to pay the fee by credit card and be reimbursed by the congregation.

General school items The Board reviewed monthly use of debit card and receipts. 4th & 5th grade boys combined basketball with Emanuel played several games vs. Salem, including one well-attended game in our gym.

Sunday School All continues to go well.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders continued to discuss contingency plans for conducting worship services should Pastor unexpectedly not be available.

Pastor Voss will exchange pulpits with other area WELS pastors for midweek Lenten services.

Resurrection Sunday is April 9. As has been our practice in the past, we will not have Holy Communion that Sunday. Holy Communion will be served during our Holy Thursday service on April 6.

Laurie Voss will select a few songs for Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday for those who wish to sing in a Holy Week voice choir. A notice of rehearsals will be put in the bulletin.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We thank the members who reached out to us about the audio issues on the weekly service recording so we could fix that.

We encourage members to invite friends and family to the upcoming Lent and Holy Week services.

We discussed the possibility of having Stephen Bautista and his family present God’s Word in song here in April after Easter.

We began talking about the Easter breakfast and would like the Council members to start thinking/preparing for this, too.

Right now we are looking to have only 2 suppers in Lent on the Wednesday night services

- a. February 22-Board of Evangelism & Stewardship
- b. March 29-Open to the congregation for hosts

We discussed the 75th Anniversary of the congregation (May 16, 1948 is the founding date), and what we should do to observe that.

Wording for change to the Bylaws was adopted was adopted by voters in January. The adopted change to Section 1 of Article 1 in the Bylaws has been submitted to the Michigan District Constitution Committee (MDCC) for approval. We should hear by the end of March if the MDCC approves the change.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We are still waiting on an estimate from Myers Heating and Cooling regarding the in-room heating units. We are following up with them.

We further discussed maintenance needed to the school roof as was reported in the January report.

We discussed the church parking lot and the growing sink hole that will need to be repaired when the parking lot is resealed.

Thank you to Howard Clark for his assistance to hard wire the projector screen at church.

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

Council input: We are seeking input regarding a roof for the church accessibility ramps; something that would make the ramps safer during the winter months.

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN

This past month we have been hearing about how Jesus was teaching the disciples many lessons even in the last week of His life. We are grateful that we have the Bible so that we may revisit these lessons again and again. We often reflect that the disciples were able to live and learn through Jesus daily, but we get to read everything in the Bible every day which is a true blessing!

We have been having fun with many dress up days leading up to our Valentine’s Day party. We also celebrated the 100th day in Kindergarten.

We have had a lot of days off due to weather, planned days off, and sickness. Hopefully next month we will have fewer snow days and better health.

Next month we will look forward to Spring and working more on our play!

Praying you all have blessed March.

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5

In our study of God's Word these last weeks we have traveled with Jesus closer and closer to Jerusalem as He prepares to suffer and die for us. We have seen Him heal illness, feed thousands, and raise the dead. He rode into Jerusalem in triumph on Palm Sunday, and then spent a couple days preaching and teaching in the temple courts. He did all of this for you and for me! What a loving Savior we have!

We enjoyed our 100th school day with some treats, games, creations and silliness. It was a fun day, and although we had lots of fun we also worked hard!

We also enjoyed our Valentine's Day mini party with snacks and valentines. It is so fun to see the kids reading and sharing the valentines they give to each other. Their friendship and joy is a delight.

Now we are working hard to get our MLS Science and Fine Arts Fair stuff ready. Eleven kids are submitting art, seven are doing forensics, two are in the spelling bee, and two are doing vocal music. I'm so pleased that so many of the kids are taking part.

Next month besides heading to MLS for the Science and Fine Arts Fair, we are going up for the Children's Theater production. March will be a very busy but very fun month!



Dear brothers & sisters in Jesus and fellow members of Memorial congregation,

The need for counseling has increased dramatically in the past decade as issues and challenges arise. God's people who trust in God's Son for salvation are not immune from such issues and challenges, nor from the need to speak with those trained to help with such issues and challenges.

We are pleased to tell you about an opportunity to receive needed **Christian** counseling services from those who adhere to a confessional Lutheran view of life and faith in this world of issues and challenges. *Christian Family Solutions* (CFS) provides Christian counseling to heal and help with a wide variety of issues and challenges. All CFS counselors are members of sister congregations, are trained to apply God's Word to those who need healing and help, and are mental health professionals who specialize in one or more of the following areas: depression, anxiety, marital issues, grief, parents and/or children issues, addiction, and more.

Our congregation has set up an agreement with CFS by which our members can request counseling from one of those counselors. Most of the counseling is done via video, though some sessions may be able to be conducted in person. Requesting an appointment is easy; just contact Pastor Voss. I will get information from you about the kind of counseling desired, let you know what the cost per session will be, and help you determine if your health insurance might cover the cost of counseling sessions provided by CFS counselors.

To keep things more manageable for CFS, the organization bill the congregation for sessions used by members. It is our hope that you and/or your family will submit a gift to the congregation to cover the cost for the session you use. Our congregation's General Fund does not have money budgeted for these sessions.

Should you desire more information about CFS counseling or want to request a referral to meet with a CFS counselor, speak to Pastor Voss. CFS is prompt in scheduling counseling sessions for members of WELS congregations with a counselor who is trained in the field of service desired by the member.

CFS is excited about the opportunity to serve our members. We thank God for providing the opportunity to apply His Word and proven counseling methods to our members who would benefit from such counseling.

In Jesus, *Pastor Voss*



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR MARCH SERVICES:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
3/01 - #2 V. Domke		S. Arntson		
3/05 - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	M. Groop	H&M Surtman	D&S Fisher
3/08 - #3 Joe Janecke		M. Groop		
3/12 - #10 B. Briggs	#4 Jim Janecke	S. Unruh	D&S Fisher	D&L Fortin
3/15 - #5 S. Houser		S. Unruh		
3/19 - #7 D. Kasischke	#9 D. Fisher	K. Unruh	S. Houser	D&R Hoag
3/22 - #8 D. Rector		K. Unruh		
3/26 - #5 S. Houser	#3 Joe Janecke	K. Leitz	L. Voss	S. Houser
3/29 - #4 Jim Janecke		K. Leitz		