



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER

## March 2025

Through the sacrifice of God's Son, we are now God's children, with whom he is well pleased.

**Luke C. Were**

The Transfiguration of our Lord is an event filled with mysteries. To me, one of the greatest mysteries is the heavenly Father's declaration: "This is my Son whom I love; with him I am well pleased" ([Matthew 17:5](#)).

God's pleasure in his Son Well pleased? Pleased that his Son would be descending the mountain in order to go to Jerusalem, to a people who would reject him? Pleased that he would be headed to the cross and suffering? Pleased that his perfectly obedient Son would sacrifice himself for ignorant and unappreciative recipients of his largesse?

I have two sons, who are precious to me. Jesus and his Father have had a relationship of perfect love from eternity. There has been nothing but perfect unity of purpose, mind, and will between them. As much as I love my sons, it cannot compare with the heavenly Father's infinite love for his Son. No matter how much pride, satisfaction, and joy I have in my sons, my heavenly Father's infinite joy and satisfaction in his Son is infinitely deeper. With him, the Father, the Almighty, is well pleased.

By total contrast, I am the son with whom God should not be well pleased. Often enough he gives me a peek into caverns of my heart where total depravity still lurks deeply like so many years of layered bat dung. A little suffering or a little adversity quickly reveals the muck of pride, impatience, hatred, hostility, resentment, faithlessness, despair, and self-absorbed concern. I don't like myself very much for such things. I'm thankful that God doesn't allow me to dwell on the totality of my sinfulness. I'm sure I could not bear it. I feel like it would destroy me. But I can perceive just enough of it to assess myself as the hymn writer did: a worm. "Alas and did my Savior bleed And did my Sov'reign die? Would he devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?" (*The Lutheran Hymnal* 154:1).

God's pleasure in what his Son did

The wonder of it, the grand mystery of it, is that the heavenly Father was not merely announcing his pleasure with who Jesus is, but also with what Jesus came to do—that he would devote that sacred head for such a worm as I. The apostle Paul framed this truth in another way: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" ([Romans 5:8](#)).

The Father was well pleased with his Son because the Son would do his Father's will. Jesus descended the Mount of Transfiguration, marched on to Jerusalem, and sacrificed himself on the cross for sinners like you and me! And God the Father was pleased!

Do you see that, because the Son obeyed, your heavenly Father has no ill will toward you? You and I would be appalled to see our sons suffer to make someone else's circumstance better. But your heavenly Father does not hold back his Son. There is not even hesitancy on his part to make the greatest possible sacrifice for you as he sends his Son to agony and death in order to atone for your sinfulness. No longer are we regarded as worms because he "redeems [our lives] from the pit and crowns [us] with love and compassion" ([Psalm 103:4](#)).

No longer a worm. A child of God with whom God is well pleased—that's the new status for each of us as we trust in Jesus. By his death our sins have been forgiven. God finds no fault with us. He is pleased not to find fault with us! Is this not a mystery? Is this not grace?

**LENT** is a valuable time for God’s people to focus on Christ and his suffering and death. That’s the essential element of Lent. Lent sharpens our focus on what God has given to us through the cross of Christ. We will be worshiping this Lenten season with Wednesday evening, midweek services at 7:00PM, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The **PTO and BOCE** is sponsoring a pre service dinner at 6:00PM, prior to the Ash Wednesday worship service.

**DIVINE CALL EXTENDED** The Holy Spirit, working through the voters of our congregation, has called Mr. Paul Kuehn to serve as pastor of Memorial Ev. Lutheran. Mr. Kuehn currently serves as a vacancy pastor in MN.

**MRS. DANIELLE KUEHN** has also been called to teach at Memorial Lutheran School. Mrs. Kuehn is currently serving as a teacher at Cross of Christ Lutheran School in Coon Rapids, MN. We ask the Lord to be with Mr & Mrs Kuehn and their four children as he prayerfully considers the two divine calls that he now has.



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** The Ladies Fellowship is branching out! We would like to invite members who can’t make it on Monday mornings, to join us on Sunday afternoons, *right after the service*. These meetings will be held about 4-5 times a year. We would like to include devotions; mission projects; maybe lunches or any other topics that concern you. Our first meeting is March 16<sup>th</sup> and we will be setting an agenda. Please join us!

**CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS**

**BOARD OF ELDERS**--The Board of Elders organized as follows: Chairman - Steve Houser, Secretary - Bob Briggs, Head Usher – vacant.

- Ash Wednesday is March 5th. We will have an Ash Wednesday worship service that day at 7:00 pm as well as Lenten services at 7:00 pm the following Wednesdays of Lent.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**--There are two parking spots at the church close to the ramp that are painted blue. These are to be used for Handicap/elderly parking.

- The board is starting research into a new sign for the front of the church

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM 7 STEWARDSHIP**-We still urge members to share service links with others.

- We are thankful for the new microphones for the sound system
- The board would like to thank all those who help/helped out with the once a month refreshments

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**-The Ash Wednesday pre-service meal is provided by the PTO and BOCE

- The school plays will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>
- The next PTO meeting will be April 14<sup>th</sup> @6:30pm at the school
- We are looking for a school parent to take over “Box Tops for Education”

**PASTOR’S REPORT**-We have replaced the first wireless mics purchased last year with more units, better technology, and rechargeability. We now have 2 beltpack mics and 2 handheld mics.

**SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR FEBRUARY SERVICES:**

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Playlist</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
3/02	Jim Janecke, L. Vogt	K. Ward	K. Remus	H & S Clark	Arnston (by 3/8)
3/05	S. Houser, T. Marion		J. Domke		
3/09	A. Rusnak, P. Jantos	Robin Olin	J. Coulter	D & S Rector	Briggs (by 3/15)
3/12	T. Loeffler, J. Zoran		J. Janecke		
3/16	D. Rector, K. Remus	M. Groop	N. Hart	K & J Douglas	Clark (by 3/22)
3/19	D. Fisher, P. Crandall, B. Janecke		J. Domke		
3/23	B. Briggs, D. Miller	S. Arnston	C. Lycos	T & L Loeffler	Coulter (by 3/29)
3/26	H. Clark, D. Fortin		J. Janecke		
3/30	V. Domke, D. Hoag	R. Hoag	J. Collins	D & S Fisher	Crandall (by 4/5)