



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

May 2022

I remember your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am convinced that it also lives in you. For this reason I am reminding you to fan into flame the gift of God.

2 Timothy 1:5-6

Since our country and culture observe Mother's Day each year on the second Sunday in May, and since the first Sunday in May this year is the first *day* of May, Mother's Day comes as early this year as it possibly can. The purpose of our congregation's newsletter is not to prod you into making dinner reservations and getting Mom gifts. But time is running short! Mother's Day this year is Sunday, May 8.

The words at the top of this page are from the Holy Spirit through the veteran missionary Paul to the young man Timothy who was about to take up the work of a pastor. Timothy had the rich blessings of being brought up in the faith by his grandmother and mother. Thus, those words express what every God-fearing and Christ-trusting mother and grandmother desires: her children and grandchildren to hold on to the Savior!

Mother's Day is more than a date on the calendar to smother Mother with affection and attention. Mother's Day is more than a day for you moms to enjoy that affection and attention from your children and grandchildren. Above all else, Mother's Day in the homes and lives of God's people celebrates the blessings from God which flow to us from Him in the persons of our mother and the rest of our Christian family.

From God? I thought Mother's Day is about the blessings we have from Mom? It is! But it is God who chose already in the Garden of Eden to join Eve to Adam as wife and husband. God established marriage and family life as His blessed building block for society. When He blesses the one man and one woman who are husband and wife with children, God uses Mom & Dad to keep the Savior and His Word are the center of family's life.

What greater blessing from God can parents pass on to their children than the saving message of Christ crucified for our sins and risen from death to assure our rising to heaven forever?! What greater respect and love can children show to their parents than to remain faithful to the Savior to whom their parents brought them at Baptism, and about whom daily devotions were read and discussed? What greater treasure is there for family life than the One of whom our mothers sang to us before laying us down to sleep?

Parents and grandparents, *do* we speak to our children and grandchildren at home about Jesus? Or do we claim there isn't much time for that, so it's the church's and school's job to do that? This month's Mother's Day, falling so soon after Holy Week this year, is a great time to rededicate our home life and to reschedule (if necessary) our family activities to make the Savior and His love for us sinners *the* most important part of our family's life.

In these days of broken marriages and hurting families, there is no better bond for strong marriages and families than the sacrificial love Jesus gave to save us from sin, Satan, death, and hell! The greatest tribute to the Christian mother is, "Thank you for all you've done and still do to tell me about the Savior!"

Pastor Voss





FOREVER WITH THE LORD The crucified, risen, and ascended Savior called to Himself in heaven the soul of our sister in the faith **Nancy Russell** on March 28. We ask our gracious God to comfort Nancy's husband Bob, her children Jennifer and Todd, and all others who mourn her death. Thanks to our crucified and risen Savior, God gives eternal life with Him in heaven to all who fall asleep in death holding on to the work of our Savior for full forgiveness and eternal life!



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**.

This summer schedule will continue 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!



THE FINAL SUNDAY SCHOOL classes and Bible Class sessions of this school year will be held **Sunday, May 22** (the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend).

WE HAVE REFRESHMENTS the first Sunday of each month. Join us in the church fellowship hall **Sunday, May 1**. Our Sunday School and Bible Class sessions will not begin until **9:25**. The refreshments will be available **in the fellowship hall 9:05-9:23**. Join us!

These monthly gatherings are designed to provide time for our members to greet and visit with each other. We thank all who provided things to eat and drink this school year.

The first Sunday of the month refreshments between services will resume in October. Watch for more information about refreshment hours to follow some of our summer Sunday worship services.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP We will meet **Monday, May 2, at 10:00 AM**. After our devotion, we are going to do some craft fun to get ready for our mission fundraiser this fall. Please bring a glue gun and scissors if you can.

After our project we are going to enjoy a salad potluck for lunch. Please bring a favorite type of salad to share and bring your own beverage.

Join us, one and all, for our fun fellowship.

SCHOOL PLAYS will be held **Friday, May 20**. The preschool and kindergartners will do "Goldie and the Bears" and the students in grades 1-5 will perform "Dragon Tale". The plays will begin at **9:30** that morning and **6:30** that evening in our gym. Join us! Invite friends to attend with you!





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Our congregation's Board of Christian Education has set the dates for this summer's Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held at our school the mornings of **July 25 -28**. Children age 3 through those entering grade 8 are invited and encouraged to attend.

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.

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP / PRESCHOOL INFORMATION DAYS Our congregation's Board of Christian Education has decided that again this year, in an effort to limit the number of people entering our school building during the school day and minimize the risk of spreading Covid, 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 2022-2023 school year, please speak to Mrs. Leitz or Pastor Voss.

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 – A Bible Instruction Class at the home of prospective members continues weekly.

Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) for WELS worldwide mission work continue to exceed the previous year's total and the prorated subscription amount for this year. May none of us take for granted the good news financially which the good news about the crucified and risen Savior inspires and motivates!

Our office secretary continues to post to our congregation's Facebook page the updates from our sister church body in Ukraine. Those updates are submitted by the stateside WELS pastor who is our synod's liaison to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. Rather than include details here, I urge you to look regularly for updates on the WELS web site and/or our Facebook page.

The WELS Assignment Committee is receiving request from congregations that desire graduates of Martin Luther College to be assigned to them as teachers, and of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to be assigned to them as pastors. At our pastor conference in Bay City, District President Sims will report the number of candidates available for assignment to their first fields of service as WELS teachers and pastors.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – The board accepted the application for a 2022-23 preschool student and will receive another application shortly.

Computer keyboard instruction is being done with grades 4-5 one morning per week, in addition to computer time with other subjects each week.

Mrs. Leitz has met with parents of preschool students to provide progress reports.

The board is discussing a window air conditioning unit for the preschool room.

School plays will be performed at 9:30 AM and 6:30 PM on Friday, May 20.

The school year closing service will be held at school on Thursday, June 2 at 6:00 PM.

The board spent the majority of its meeting once again looking at projected enrollment for K-8 in the 2023-24 school year, should we add grades 6-8.

Vacation Bible School dates were set in March for the mornings of July 25-28. Acting on a request from a few members, we will offer instruction for students entering grades 6-8 (the last few years we stopped at those entering fifth grade) if there is enough interest and enough teachers.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders recommends the requested transfer of membership of John and Melissa Stiefel to Shepherd of the Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lansing.

The Elders discussed Lenten and Holy Week services.

Thursday, May 26 will be our first Thursday evening summer worship service. With May 26 being Ascension Day, The Thursday and Sunday, May 29 worship services will be a celebration service of our Savior's ascension.

Based on feedback from the congregation, we will continue to serve Holy Communion on the main floor of the sanctuary.

The Elders also discussed passing the thankoffering plates. For the time being, we will continue to keep the collection plates at the entrances to the sanctuary as we have been doing.

The Michigan District Convention will be held Monday, June 6 through Wednesday, June 8 at MLS. The Board has drawn up a list of four men from the congregation to serve as a lay delegate and await a response from the first man on our list.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We discussed having an all-day event to go over the *Let's Go!* Evangelism material.

The after-service presentation this quarter will be done by the Board of Trustees.

We discussed the summer refreshments and will have them. Next month the board will decide whether they will be held every summer non-communion Sunday or once a month.

The board made plans for the April 6 Lent supper. About 30 attended the meal that the board hosted.

A new WELS grant opportunity was presented to our board. The grant may be applied to efforts to provide food, clothing, or shelter directly to needy persons in our community. The board will look deeper into this in May and June.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – We reviewed the updated quotes for gutter guards and gutters for the church and parsonage. The board will provide a recommendation after the parsonage roof has been inspected.

The insurance policy for all the facilities needs to be renewed by June 15, 2022

Thank you to the Ladies Fellowship Group for the coordination of cleaning and removal of excess items for the church kitchen.

Myers Plumbing and Heating was at school on April 6 to complete the boiler repair that was needed to complete the inspection. A letter has been placed on file showing the inspection and repairs have been completed.

Lawn mowing for church and school was discussed. A mowing schedule for the school will be posted at the church and school. Each volunteer will also be receiving the schedule.

School parking lot repairs will be completed in the near future.

There was general discussion on facilities usage.

Thank you to the volunteers who have assisted with properties and services of our congregation. What a blessing!





BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN

This April we focused on the death and resurrection of our Savior. We had a special Easter celebration the last day that Preschool and Kindergarten met before Easter Sunday. We hunted for resurrection eggs which helped travel the path with Jesus to the cross and then the resurrection. We also stopped to make a few different projects to help us travel down that path. We made palm leaves with our handprints, prayer books with our hands, made and ate resurrection rolls, and we sang many songs along the way. To our little lambs the death and resurrection of Jesus came to life. Their little hearts have a very deep understanding of what Jesus' death and resurrection means for them. What a blessing it is to hear them profess their faith so boldly and joyfully!

The rest of this month we have been learning about the life cycle of a bird and we hope to witness it in real life with a real duckling in a real egg!! A parent is bringing in one for us to observe. We will also be observing the life cycle of butterflies and ladybugs next month. May is also the month of ends and finishing up all of our curriculum as well as our long-awaited performance of "Goldie and the Bears."

God bless your spring,

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5

This month in our study of God's Word we've been learning about the split kingdom after the time of David and Solomon. Just as God predicted, the people were not happy under the rule of ungodly kings. But it was too late because the monarchy had been established. Kings that were not faithful to God led the people into terrible and shameful sins. But our true God was and is faithful. He took care of the remnant of believers. The Savior would come from those faithful souls.

We are working hard on our class play, *Dragon Tale*. This year we are hoping that many more people can come and enjoy our work. The date is Friday, May 20, and we will have shows in the morning at 9:30 and 6:30 in the evening.

The art classes, under the direction of Mrs. Chaffee, are working hard to put together an art show for the week of the plays. Plan now to come and see all the art and then take in a show!

We are also working hard on our songs for the area WELS schools choral concert to be held this Friday, April 29, at Salem in Owosso. After a couple of years without things like this we are eager to join with others in praise to our God!

A HUGE thank you to all of our volunteers! Your work is so appreciated!



SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR MAY SERVICES:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
5/01 - #7 D. Kasischke	#1 T. Marion	M. Zoran	L&K Ward	V&J Domke
5/08 - #6 J. Zoran	#3 Joe Janecke	K. Leitz	P&S Crandall	J. Douglas
5/15 - #5 S. Houser	#4 Jim Janecke	S. Rector	A&J Rusnak	K&K Fedewa
5/22 - #2 V. Domke	#9 D. Fisher	K. Ward		D&S Fisher
5/29 - #1 T. Marion		K. Unruh	D. Wood	D&L Fortin