



Author: John A. Braun Volume 106, Number 5

From the beginning of his life, Jesus was the focus of opposition. Herod wanted to rid his little part of the world of this child whose birth had been announced by a star. Later crowds flocked to him with their diseases. They also came longing to hear the good news for their weary souls. They recognized that Jesus spoke with the voice of authority. Yet opposition persisted throughout his ministry. And we know his opponents orchestrated his crucifixion and unwittingly fulfilled God's plans for the world's salvation.

Jesus told his disciples they would experience the same kind of opposition because of their allegiance to him. He said that he was called a devil and told his disciples that they should not expect anything different ([Matthew 10:25](#)). He pointedly said, "You will be hated by all nations because of me" ([Matthew 24:9](#)). So it is. Around the world each month, 255 Christians are killed, 104 abducted, 160 Christians are detained without trial and imprisoned, and 66 churches are attacked (Open Doors USA). These figures verify the warning of Jesus that the world will hate us because of him.

Why? Do we promote violence and unrest in our society or in the world? Do we teach hatred? Do we refuse to work or pay taxes? Are we diseased and require quarantine so others will not be infected? Are we somehow not human like other people? We bleed, laugh, cry, work, play, and feel emotions like everyone else.

Yet our Christian faith often creates anger, intimidation, and ridicule. Sometimes Christian students at universities are shamed for their beliefs. Many have felt tension and conflict from friends and family members because they trust in the promises of Jesus.

Why the hostility on the part of some?

First, we should expect it. Jesus told us it would be our experience in this world just as it was his experience. Of course, that doesn't make it easier to endure. We are his disciples here and now, living where Jesus has placed us. So many Christians have come before us, and many will come after us. Some suffered more than we suffer, but they endured. Opposition persists.

Second, we have a message that the world does not consider important. We think it is. We treasure the message of God's love, Jesus, forgiveness, and eternal life. But the gospel is not friendly to the human heart that prefers to create its own gods and theology. The Christian message challenges the sin within the human heart and dashes the hope that some god accepts everyone no matter what they believe or how they live. The gospel pits God's good against human evil—God's way against human dreams. The result is conflict. Why persist with this message of God's grace in Jesus? Because Jesus sent his disciples out as his witnesses. As his witnesses, they told what they saw and learned. They could not change what they shared. To change it would be to distort the truth. It might resolve some of the conflict and opposition, but they would be unreliable and unfaithful witnesses.

And why would they change their witness? Why indeed? It was and still is the Word of Life found nowhere else. We believe as those disciples on Ascension Day did—that Christian hope, joy, and peace transcend the understanding of the world ([Philippians 4:7](#)). Like them, we are his witnesses. May he help us remain faithful witnesses.

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY, communion Sundays will be May 5 & May 19.

THERE WILL BE a joint Lansing Area Ascension worship service held Thursday, May 9 at *Shepherd of the Hills*, Lansing at 6:30PM to celebrate our Savior's ascension into heaven.



OUR YOUTH CONFIRMATION will be in the worship service on Sunday, May 19. This year's confirmand is **Sidney Fortin**. We welcome Sidney as a communicant member of our congregation. May God ever keep this precious soul of His faithful to Him and to all His Word!

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE Assignment Service is Saturday, May 18. That afternoon we will find out if the WELS Assignment Committee was able to fill our request for a graduate to serve as our upper grades teacher.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY the graduate assignment service will be May 23, beginning 11:00am. The service program is streamed live and we should know by the end if the Assignment Committee was able to fulfill our request for a graduate to serve as our new Pastor.

THE FINAL SUNDAY SCHOOL classes and Bible Class sessions of this school year will be held Sunday, May 19.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP will meet on *Monday, May 6 at 10:00am*. We will be updating the library, finishing the bulletin board and discussing our project for Christian Life Resources.

THE SCHOOL SPRING PLAY will be held Thursday, May 17 at 9:30AM and also that night at 6:30PM. Come join us!



LAST DAY OF SCHOOL will be Friday, May 31.

DID YOU KNOW that Williamston was founded in 1871 and this year is the Red Cedar Jubilee's 52nd year of existence? The parade, on **June 22nd**, is one of the many events that is sponsored by Williamston's service organizations, nonprofit groups and churches.

The Board of Stewardship & Evangelism would like Memorial to be represented once again. We are looking for members who are willing to coordinate and participate in a walking entry in the Williamston parade. If interested, speak to Joe, Karl or Jason.

CAMP LOR-RAY KIDS CAMP 2024 Are you thinking about summertime fun in fellowship? Do you enjoy the outdoors and camping? Have you thought about a fun ministry opportunity? Well enough of the questions, here's what you need to know! The first day of kids camp is closing in and there is still so much to do! Here's how you can help ensure it runs smoothly. First kids, we need you to be the campers and enjoy yourselves with fun camp activities and worship. Second, we need all of you who sadly are too old to be a camper to come back for a staffing opportunity to be the leaders for the campers in all the fun daytime activities to the singing of hymns around the campfire. We need a cook to keep everyone fed, a lifeguard and craft director to ensure the campers are safe and craft loads of memories to carry home with them on the last day of camp. Check out the website (**CampLor-Ray.org**) for the whole list of staffing positions and the 2024 Kids Camp dates. Don't be shy to email questions to Camplorray@gmail.com

PICTURES REQUESTED The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is working on a new church directory. We kindly ask members to submit a family photo. You can do so by texting your photo to Karl Remus at 517-490-6208, sending your photo via email at remuskarl77@outlook.com, or by asking Karl, Joe Janecke, or Jason Leitz to take a photo for you at church.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS

BOARD OF ELDERS:

1. The Elders thank our voice choir members for beautifying our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Resurrection Sunday worship services.

2. Our new sound system is working nicely, and our playlist operators are becoming more familiar with the equipment. We thank our playlist operators for their efforts to enrich our worship.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

1. Myers Heating & Cooling installed the wiring harness that was ordered for the new roof top heating and cooling units at School. The units are complete and in full operation.
2. The toilet at the Church has been repaired.
3. The bleachers at the gym were boxed in and a safety rail installed. The Lockers were moved out of the bathrooms at school and work on the tile was completed.
4. The water report for the school was submitted.
5. The shower at the parsonage was glazed and trees and brush were removed.
6. A schedule for mowing the lawns at school will be posted. Thank you to all of last year's volunteers.
7. Thank you to Pat Crandall and Victor Domke for their dedicated service for the completion of above projects.
8. The Board of Trustees would like to thank all Church and School volunteers for cleaning among other tasks. We appreciate the countless hours everyone provides to take care of the facilities.

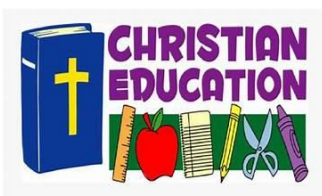
BOARD OF EVANGELISM & STEWARDSHIP:

1. We would like to thank the Church Secretary for placing the service on our Facebook pages for the members.
2. We are thankful for all our thankoffering counters and all their work.
3. We would like to thank all those who helped out with the two Lenten suppers.
4. We would like to thank everyone that helped with the Easter breakfast, there were around 100 people served.
5. We plan to show WELS connection on the 3rd Sunday of the month.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

1. The Board is thankful that Karla Leitz has returned the call she was holding to St. Johns at Westland Michigan.
2. The School and Sunday School children have been singing once a month in church.
3. The Board of Christian Education would like to thank our teachers, substitutes, and music director for their work with our children.
4. MSU concessions has ended, it was a lot of work by a diligent crew of volunteers. The Board would like to thank all of those who volunteered.

BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL



FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5:

This past month in our study of God's Word we have been learning about the kings of Israel and Judah, and what happened when they worshiped idols and encouraged their people to worship idols. It is so important to learn what God has for us in his Word. That way we can know how to obey him and to please him.

In Social Studies grades 3-5 are studying the Revolutionary War. We have just reached the events of the last weeks of the war when the British surrendered to the Continental army. In Science we are studying land and water ecosystems. Most recently we are learning about water food chains and webs.

Continued....

All of us are working hard on our Spring play, *A Knight To Remember*.

Our plays will be held on May 17, both at 9:30 and 6:30. We'd love to have you join us at one of those performances! We promise a fun time with great kids!

We have a very busy few weeks coming up! We are planning a whole school field trip to Binder Park Zoo later in May. We also have a field trip coming up to celebrate our Memorial Mileage Club victory of walking and running more than 500 miles! We are also going to the Williamston Senior Center to sing our play songs for the good people there.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR MAY SERVICES:

	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Playlist</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
05/05	A. Rusnak, P. Jantos	Kathy Ward	Jameson Collins	D & S Fisher	(to be done 05/04) Tobia
05/12	T. Loeffler, J. Zoran	Karla Leitz	Joe Janecke	S Houser	(to be done 05/11) Arnston
05/19	D. Rector, K. Remus	Kathy Ward	Nancy Hart	D Steiner	(to be done 05/18) Briggs
05/26	D. Fisher, P. Crandall, B. Janecke	Marlene Zoran	Jason Leitz	L & K Ward	(to be done 05/25) Clark