



# **Memorial Messenger** **November 2024**

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How would you describe the perfect congregation?

Would the perfect congregation be one in which every sermon is clear, interesting, practical, and holds your attention for 20 minutes? Would it be a congregation whose pastor has a winsome personality that appeals to people of all ages and backgrounds? Would the perfect congregation have members who are all friendly and welcoming to strangers? Would that congregation have Sunday worship that is consistently uplifting, edifying, and beautiful, with a style that appeals to all members?

Would its pews be filled with dozens of young families whose children are perfectly behaved? Would it be a congregation that places outreach and support for missions as its highest priority? Would it be a congregation whose only problem is how to accommodate the new members who are constantly joining?

If you are looking for a perfect congregation, those things might well describe it. But you won't find such a congregation. It doesn't exist, and it won't exist this side of heaven.

How would you describe the perfect synod?

Would the perfect synod be one in which every single member is perfectly united in what they believe and has a full understanding of every biblical doctrine? Would it be a synod in which all existing congregations are growing and mission congregations are being started in dozens of new communities? Would the perfect synod have ministerial education schools filled to capacity with young people willing to serve as pastors and teachers? Would it be a synod in which vacancies in the pulpit and classroom are virtually nonexistent?

Would the perfect synod be one in which all decisions made by its leaders prove to be exactly correct, always bringing about the hoped-for results?

Would the perfect synod be one in which no congregation or called worker or member ever strays from the truth and leaves?

If you are looking for a perfect synod, those things might well describe it. But you won't find such a synod. It doesn't exist, and it won't exist this side of heaven.

There is a good reason why we refer to the church on earth, whether congregations or synods, as the church militant. The church on earth comprises 100 percent sinners, and because it comprises imperfect people it will never be perfect this side of heaven. And besides that, the church is under constant siege from Satan and his allies. This side of heaven, the church struggles with temptations within and attacks from outside.

Yet, even with the church's faults and weaknesses, God can and does work to overcome both the attacks of Satan and the imperfections of his people. He does that through the life-giving power of the gospel. In Christ, through faith, God's people recognize that their weaknesses have been overcome by his gracious strength. Unity that is fractured by sinful attitudes and deeds is restored as God brings sinners into his family and keeps them there through Word and sacrament. Motivated by the love of God in Christ, God's people gather together into congregations and synods and, to the best of their ability, "declare the praises of him who called [them] out of darkness into his wonderful light" ([1 Peter 2:9](#)).

Looking for the perfect church? Searching for the perfect synod? You will find the perfect church if you are looking for the right thing: a church where the gospel is proclaimed in all its saving truth and beauty. When we have that, we can view our congregations and our synod in a completely different light—as gatherings of flawed sinners who have been made perfect by the blood of the Lamb.

**A DIVINE CALL MEETING** will be held after the service on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:45pm.

**THE PTO** is having a Share Night on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 5pm—9pm at Culvers of Okemos located at 5140 Times Square Dr (off Marsh Rd). No code need. If you're available, drop on by for some good food for a great cause!

**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** will meet on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> to work on our Mission gift table items.

**TRUNK OR TREAT** was held on our lot on **Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>** from 2 to 4pm. Many thanks to all who participated.



**OUR 2ND ANNUAL BATTLE** of the churches chili cook off will be held on **November 9<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm at Emanuel Lutheran**. There will be awards for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners as well as a larger trophy to be displayed at the *1st place winners home church!* Last year **Memorial** had two entries, but alas, no winners. In addition to tasting all the amazing chili there will be a raffle to win prizes as well as a Silent Auction! Admission and Chili tasting is free will donation. Kids meals of hot dog, chips, drink and dessert will be available for \$2. We are also looking for donations of "Goody Basket", gift certificates, and so on for the raffles and Silent Auction. All proceeds will go towards the enrichment and growth of Christian education. Please have any and all donations be turned in no later than

November 7<sup>th</sup> so we can set up and plan accordingly.

### **NEWS FROM MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY:**

*Tickets are now on sale* for the MLS production of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on November 23-24. Join Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Linus, and the gang as they discover the true meaning of Christmas. To purchase tickets visit [www.mlsem.org/fall-play](http://www.mlsem.org/fall-play).

*Michigan Lutheran Seminary* would like to invite you to one of our Open Houses this school year! We have open houses on February 14<sup>th</sup>, March 8<sup>th</sup>, and May 2<sup>nd</sup>!

This is a great opportunity for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families to learn about the campus, academics, and extracurriculars at MLS! You'll have a chance to meet faculty, talk to parents and students, try our dining hall cuisine, and take a tour of the campus! If you're interested or would like more information, contact us at [admissions@mlsem.org](mailto:admissions@mlsem.org) or call (989) 793-1010 ext. 421.

*MLS applications for 2025-26 school year*

It's already time to think about applying for the 2025-26 school year! If you have an 8<sup>th</sup> grader who wants to come to MLS next year, applications will be officially open November 1<sup>st</sup>! Be sure to apply as soon as you can so that you are eligible for the tuition discount drawings. If you apply before November 30<sup>th</sup>, you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$500 tuition discount; and if you apply before December 31<sup>st</sup>, you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$250 tuition discount! For any questions, contact us at [admissions@mlsem.org](mailto:admissions@mlsem.org) or call (989) 793-1010 ext. 421. To apply, go to [www.mlsem.org/apply](http://www.mlsem.org/apply).



**THE CAMPUS MINISTRY** at Michigan State serves both domestic students (and actually any young adults 18-20s in the Lansing area) and international students. It is *supported* by local WELS congregations and individual WELS members in the area and also WELS Home Missions.

A big part of our ministry to internationals is helping international students with speaking English. We do this with "English As A Second Language" (ESL) classes or in simple gatherings for English conversation over light refreshments. If you are willing to do either, we need you! Please let **Pastor Burger** (517-505-3052/ [normburger@comcast.net](mailto:normburger@comcast.net)) know if you would like to find out more about or help with this important aspect of our ministry. Thank you for your prayers, interest in, and support of this ministry!

## **CHURCH COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

A water filter was installed at the school lobby water filling station.

Wet it and forget it was applied to the patronage roof and north side of the church. Gutters at the church were cleaned.

Toilet paper holders in the church basement restrooms were replaced

## **BOARD OF ELDERS:**

The Elder's discussed upcoming special services

- i) Thanksgiving – 11/27 7:00pm
- ii) Midweek Advent – 12/4 7:00pm.
- iii) Christmas Eve. – 7:00pm
- iv) Christmas Day – 10:30am
- v) New Year's Eve. – 7:00pm, joint service with Zion at Zion.

## **BOARD OF EVANGELISM & STEWARDSHIP:**

We will post the slate for open board positions

We Will continue to have the smaller 1 Sunday a month refreshments after the service

We would like to thank all those that help/helped out with the once a month refreshments

## **BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

Schools 50 th anniversary will be in 2025.

First youth assembly on 10-19-2024 Jason Leitz to head for Memorial 7 th grade and above.

## **BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL**

### PreK—Kindergarten

Dear Memorial Members,

We have gotten into a really good routine with our new preschool and Kindergarten group. So far the preschoolers have been working on their names and writing new letters. The Kindergarten have been learning addition and counting to 100, learning their letter sounds and blending them together, and in science we have been learning all about the weather. We have been enjoying all things fall from picking apples and pumpkins at the Country Mill apple orchard to making leaf piles in the millions of leaves outside at school. We had an MLS student visit our classroom for the taste of Ministry and that's always a good experience for everyone. We were also blessed with a visit from the fire trucks and ambulance from the Williamston Fire Department. We have been very busy having fun and learning a lot along the way! Have a wonderfully blessed fall season,  
Mrs. Karla Leitz

### 1<sup>st</sup>—5<sup>th</sup> grade

This month we have been busy at school! We enjoyed our annual trip to the Country Mill. While there we picked pumpkins and apples, took a wagon ride, learned about apple production and sampled doughnuts and cider. It was a super fun time. In September we also had our fall fun day with games, prizes and a pie eating contest. That was followed by a hot dog supper and PTO meeting with all the school families. We are so grateful to have a strong, working relationship with school staff and parents and grandparents. The last week in October we'll take some time to remember Reformation and Martin Luther. We are grateful that God used Luther to bring the truth about salvation through Jesus to all Christians. On the 31st we'll also dress up in costumes, share a treat, and enjoy making some fall art.

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## **SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR NOVEMBER SERVICES:**

	<u><i>Ushers</i></u>	<u><i>Altar Guild</i></u>	<u><i>Playlist</i></u>	<u><i>Greeter(s)</i></u>	<u><i>Cleaners</i></u>
11/03	V. Domke, D. Hoag	Kathy Ward	Karl Remus	H&S Clark	(to be done 10/02)Coulter
11/10	Joe Janecke, L. Vogt	Sheryl Arnston	Joe Janecke	D&S Rector	(to be done 11/09) Crandall
11/17	Jim Janecke, N. Schlicker	Mary Ann Groop	Nancy Hart	K&J Douglas	(to be done 11/16)Douglas
11/24	S. Houser	Marlene Zoran	Jill Coulter	T&L Loeffler	(to be done 11/23) Domke
11/27	A. Rusnak, P. Jantos	Marlene Zoran	Judy Domke		