



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER October 2022



*“Always keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.” Acts 20:28 (EHV)*

The words above were some of the last words that the Apostle Paul spoke to the leaders of the congregation in Ephesus. It will be well worth your time to read **Acts 20:17-38** to get the full text and context of what Paul said to a congregation he had served so faithfully. There we read about Paul’s commitment to proclaim the full counsel of God to God’s blood-bought souls in Ephesus. We also read of his concern that once he left Ephesus, false teachers would swoop in and twist the truths of God’s Word that Paul had taught in Ephesus. Finally, we read there about the heart-breaking farewell when Paul left the shore and stepped on board a boat to sail for yet another place where God had called Paul to serve as God’s called worker.

The reason **Acts 20:28** was chosen for these lines is that the voters of our congregation have adopted the Church Council’s recommendation to add Grades 6-8 to our school once again, beginning with the 2023-24 school year, and that we call an experienced man to serve as our upper grades teacher and school principal. As of this writing, we await word from the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools and Michigan District President Sims for the date they can have a teacher divine call list ready for us. Watch for an announcement soon about the date of that divine call meeting here.

But until then, pray for the Lord’s blessings to accompany the preparation of that list by those entrusted by our church body to provide it for us, and all our preparations here for that meeting. The man we call will not have any idea that he is on that divine call list. He will not have applied for this position in our school. He likely doesn’t even know that our congregation exists, and that we operate a Lutheran Elementary School.

That seems like a poor way to add a teacher to our faculty. No interviews? No feelers about whether he is ready to make a move? No and no. But here is our great confidence: *the Holy Spirit will use our congregation’s voters to call the man He wants to consider this divine call.* See the verse above. People don’t seek positions in God’s churches and schools. *“The Holy Spirit has placed you”*, Paul told the called leaders of the church in Ephesus. We are convinced the Holy Spirit still remains in charge of the divine call process.

We will make contact with the man who is called later this month. You may wish to send him a text and/or email message. We will all pray for this teacher, who will be considering whether to accept the divine call to serve as our teacher and principal, or to stay where he is currently serving. But the Holy Spirit will use us to extend this divine call, just as He uses us to carry out the work of His Church.

The workers change. But neither the work, nor the tool of God’s Word to do the work, change! May the Savior who saved us by His blood bless the work we do together – and the deliberations of a man we do not yet know about joining us in that work.

*Pastor Voss*



**WE WELCOME TO OUR CONGREGATION** *Virginia and Janice Taschner*. Virginia and Janice joined our congregation by profession of faith on September 11.

We ask the Holy Spirit to make Virginia and Janice a rich blessing to our congregation, as well as to make our congregation a rich blessing to them!

**WE HAVE RETURNED TO OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE.** Worship services are held at **8:00** and **10:30** Sunday mornings. Join us!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS** have also resumed. Classes begin at 9:15 Sunday mornings.



**AT THE SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING** September 27, the recommendation that we add the upper grades to our school next school year, calling a man to serve as upper grades teacher and principal, was adopted.

In consultation with Michigan District President Sims and the WELS Commission on Lutheran Schools, a date will be set for a divine call meeting. Please watch for an announcement in the Sunday bulletin and via email message for the date of that divine call meeting.

**IF YOU MISSED** the *Let's Go* Bible study about personal evangelism in Bible Class last fall, we are able to make the videos from the WELS Commission on Evangelism available to you. Speak to Pastor Voss if you want him to send you the WELS link for those videos.

**WE WILL HAVE REFRESHMENTS** the first Sunday of each month, resuming ***Sunday, October 2***. On those Sundays, 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 have hosts who've volunteered to provide refreshments on October 2. If you are willing to provide something simple for future first-Sunday refreshments, please speak to Joe Janecke, Jason Leitz, Karl Remus, or Pastor Voss.

**THE NEXT QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING** is ***Tuesday, October 25 at 7:00***. Each year at the October meeting we elect officers and board members (those terms begin January 1), as well as adopt a budget for the next calendar year. After the Church Council meeting in October, we will have a proposed 2023 budget ready for consideration by the voters.

An open forum will be held at 11:35 on ***Sunday, October 23*** as reports and the proposed 2022 budget are presented for discussion. If Pastor Voss has your email address, he will send those reports to you by email on Friday, October 21.

Men at least 18 years old who are not yet voting members of the congregation and who would like to become voting members should speak to President Dane Nickols or to Pastor Voss about how to do so.



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** will resume monthly meetings ***Monday, October 3 at 10:00 AM***. Please remember to check your email for items to bring as we work on special projects. If you plan to attend and did not get an email, speak with Laurie and she will give you a copy of that message and items to bring.

**WE ARE LOOKING FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS** to operate the computer when worship service music is recorded. Please speak to Pastor Voss if you want to know more about what this work entails.

**COLLEGE STUDENTS**, please submit your campus address, phone number, and e-mail address to Pastor Voss. If he has your e-mail address, he would be happy to send a copy of week's sermon to you electronically.

Even if you have previously submitted a college e-mail address to Pastor Voss, please do so once again so that we can be sure to have up-to-date information. Pastor Voss' e-mail address is [revdavoss@gmail.com](mailto:revdavoss@gmail.com).

We wish you God's richest blessings on your studies!

**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION** Go to [www.BTFE.com](http://www.BTFE.com) to learn more about this program. The process involves getting the app, then scanning your receipts. The app will determine if you have any Boxtops that count. Profits from these *boxtops* will accumulate for our school, and we will receive a check several times a year to use for school supplies. Please do NOT cut anything from product packages. They are no longer accepted for this program. Please DO scan your receipt. Everything is now done through the Boxtops app. Thank you for your help with this program!

**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.

**PRINTER CARTRIDGES** We continue to recycle old printer cartridges at OfficeDepot and get credit for the ones we take in each month. The donations we continue to receive are much appreciated!

*But it's becoming difficult for us to store the large toner cartridges that are used in business printers / copiers. So, for the time being, we are only recycling home printer cartridges that fit in the palm of your hand. We trust that you will understand why we won't be able to accept large cartridges at this time.*

**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** – Last week I began a new Bible Instruction Class with a prospective member. There are several additional prospects with whom I will speak once again about starting Bible Instruction Class. Given the availability of times for those individuals and families, the classes will be held individually.

Catechism Class has settled into a schedule for those classes taking place on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:30.

*WELS News* – I hope we don't take the following recurring good news for granted: thankofferings submitted to WELS by congregations across the Synod are still running ahead of last year.

Attendance at Thursday evening summer worship services was consistently in low 20s to upper teens. Regular Thursday evening worship attendees were very appreciative for this alternative to 9:00 service on Sunday mornings in the summer.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – The Board of Christian Education recommends that the congregation extend a divine call for a male teacher to teach the upper grades of our Lutheran Elementary School and serve as our principal. We ask that a special voters meeting to consider this recommendation be held on Tuesday, September 17. The WELS divine call window for calling experienced teachers during the 2022-2023 school opens

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 and closes Sunday, April 16, 2023.

Books and supplies were ordered by our teachers, some on their personal credit cards and some on the PTO debit card. We request that the amount for school supplies put on the PTO debit card be reimbursed from general fund.

An aide has been scheduled for Mrs. Leitz's classroom for three mornings per week.

School students will resume singing in church for one service per month this school year. Sunday School students will join them.

Calls for teachers for Sunday School have been accepted and teachers installed. We thank Hannah Domke, Kathy Fedewa and Nora Stanton for serving as teachers, and Laurie Voss for her work with Sunday School music.

Tuition assistance for our 2 students attending Emanuel Lutheran School for the 2022-2023 school year: One member family requests that assistance: \$2,500 for fall semester.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – The Elders discussed upcoming Advent, Christmas, and New Year's worship services. Due to low attendance numbers for midweek Advent services the last several years, we will have only one midweek Advent service this year. Our midweek Advent service will be on Wednesday, December 12, at 7:00 PM.

Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Sunday this winter. There will be one worship service each of those Sundays at 10:00 AM.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00 PM and our New Year's Eve worship service will be at 4:00 PM. We are still looking for more HymnSoft volunteers.

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship recommends sending 10% of the \$74,733 gift (\$7,473) to WELS.

We discussed having a Friendship Sunday before or near Christmas, urging members to invite unchurched friends and relatives to hear about the Savior with us.

We discussed a Trunk or Treat and are looking into maybe having one on Saturday, October 29.

We began identifying candidates for church officer and board positions and will have a slate of candidates posted by October 16.

We discussed the between services First Sunday refreshments and will start them back up in October. Members will be asked to serve as hosts.

31 tickets were ordered for last month's Lugnut game.

We thank all those who hosted summer refreshment hours.

A potluck dinner was planned for September 11 in the church fellowship hall.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – We discussed further planning for shrub removal along the sidewalk at church. We will decide how to proceed once the shrubs have been removed (railroad ties, treated lumber, pavers, etc.).

Request for service will be made for the school heating unit (roof west side) that has been tripping the breaker.

We further discussed initiating estimate for repair to classroom heating units.

We have monthly discussions regarding facilities usage.

Thank you:

- Rusnak family for the donation of three swings for the school.
- Pat Crandall for cleaning the drain at the church entrance in front of the fellowship hall.
- Victor Domke for replacing the belt on the school lawn mower.
- To all for the faithful service to our Savior and for his Church!





## **BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL**

### **FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN**

The start of this school year has been a great one! We have one of our biggest groups of Preschool and Kindergarten at 17 students. We have been enjoying getting to know each other, getting our routine down, and learning how to work together as a group. We also have been learning about Apples and fall, as well as colors, how to hold our crayons, letters, and recognizing and writing our names. Most importantly we have been learning about the birth of our Savior and His life here on earth and how much of what He did shows us the path we need to follow as we live our lives here on earth.

We will be heading to the apple orchard where we will pick an apple and a pumpkin, enjoy a donut and cider, and learn about how apples grow. In October we will also look forward to a fall celebration where the students can wear their halloween costumes, play fun games, and paint pumpkins.

Praying you all have a wonderful October!

### **FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5**

We are off to a great start! Twenty great kids are hearing about Jesus every single day - and that's the greatest thing! We are learning about the New Testament this year, so we have studied the announcement of Jesus' birth, His birth in Bethlehem, visit by the Wise Men, and visit to Anna and Simeon at the temple courts. Next we were with Jesus as He traveled to Jerusalem as a boy, was baptized, and defeated Satan in the desert temptations. Now we begin with His first miracle and amazing teaching. What a joy to share these truths with these kids.

Grades 3-5 are studying physical science this year. We have a number of fun experiments lined up, with breadmaking high on the list! The bridge making activity was fun and found kids working well in groups to accomplish their goal. In Social Studies we are learning about regions of the United States, with some emphasis on states and capitals. So far we have hit some general geography pretty hard.

Several students have competed in the WELS area cross country meet at the DeVries Nature Center near Owosso. All the Memorial kids ran well and had a good time! Congrats to Josh, Rhyah, David, Elizabeth, Addison M., Addison S. and Simeon!

We recently went to the Country Mill for our annual fall kickoff. It is such a blast to pick apples and pumpkins, ride the wagons, enjoy the lecture, and eat doughnuts with cider! Thanks to Mrs. Leitz for setting that all up for us!

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

<b><u>8:00</u></b>	<b><u>10:30</u></b>	<b><u>Altar Guild</u></b>	<b><u>Greeter(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Cleaners</u></b>
10/02 - #6 D. Kasischke	#9 D. Fisher	S. Rector	S. Houser	D&J Domke
10/09 - #10 B. Briggs	#8 D. Rector	R. Hoag	L. Voss	J. Douglas
10/16 - #5 S. Houser	#1 T. Marion	R. Olin	F&N Mills	K&K Fedewa
10/23 - #2 V. Domke	#3 Joe Janecke	S. Unruh	D. Steiner	D&S Fisher
10/30 - #6 J. Zoran	#4 Jim Janecke	K. Unruh	L&K Ward	D&L Fortin

