



MEMORIAL MESSENGER

October 2023



Like newborn babies, crave the pure spiritual milk of the word so that by it you may grow up with the result being salvation. Certainly you have tasted that the Lord is good! 1 Peter 2:2-3

The success movement has infiltrated the religious world. Some television evangelists and religious personalities have written books or led seminars about steps to *successful* parenting, *successful* marriages, *successful* studying, *successful* financial planning, *successful* business management.

They mean well, intending to apply Biblical principles and spiritual goals into every facet of life. Unfortunately, they often miss the main goal of God's Word and what He wants to be the guiding purpose of our spiritual lives. They focus on a religious message of *glory*. They'd rather concentrate on how happy and successful God can make our lives right now. God *does* want us to be happy in life; but that isn't His main goal for our lives.

God wants our focus to be on what Martin Luther called *the theology of the cross*. Our Lord's plan for us starts with and stands on the foundation of what Christ's life and death and resurrection mean for us sinners who have offended God with our sins. We need to keep that in mind every time we read anything of a spiritual nature, even those materials coming from a Christian camp. We need to keep our religious diet in line with what our Lord sets before us in the verses above: His "*pure spiritual milk*".

Did you notice God didn't suggest we simply snack on His Word? "*Like newborn babies, **crave** the pure spiritual milk of the word.*" A tiny infant screams if she hasn't been fed lately; she won't be quiet or satisfied until she gets some milk. Does that describe our attitude toward God's Word? Will we refuse to start our daily routine or fall asleep at night unless we've been fed by God with His Word? With His *pure* Word?

The sinful nature in us snarls, "Why should I take the time to do that every day? I'm busy! And isn't this Bible stuff the same material repeated over and over again?" The voice of God Himself thunders back, "**Crave pure spiritual milk...now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.**"

If your life has had some financial, physical, or emotional setbacks lately, you might wonder if God's goodness has run dry – at least, dry in *your* direction. That's the problem with concentrating on the theology of *glory*; God has not promised us perpetual prosperity in the areas of earthly wealth or bodily health.

We face disappointments all the time. But when we look at disappointments through the microscope of Christ's work for us, we realize the Lord is still very good to us. None of those disappointments dilutes God's forgiveness at all. That's the beauty of seeing everything through the window of the theology of the cross. God has promised us unlimited forgiveness from the well of His grace in Christ!

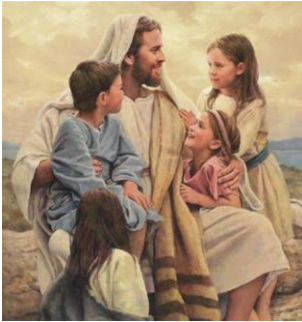


As we Lutherans prepare for another Reformation season, celebrating what God did for His Church through the work of Luther, let's not forget Luther's emphasis on the cross of Jesus. There we find blessings that never run out. There we find the success that lasts forever. There we find nourishment that's always good for us. Not in Luther and his writings, but in the Savior and His Word.

Pastor Voss

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

Please be aware that once the pastoral vacancy begins November 1, the time of worship may well change to fit the vacancy pastor's schedule.

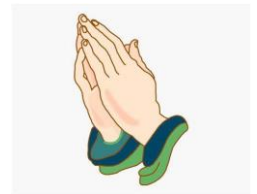


SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS sessions have also begun and are held **9:15 – 10:10**.

We urge parents to send their children to Sunday School regularly. Our Sunday School is using the WELS religion curriculum *ChristLight*, which is coordinated with our Lutheran Elementary School Bible History lessons (also from *ChristLight*) to avoid repetition of material. ***Classes are for children 3 years old through 8th grade students.***

Parents and grandparents, set a God-pleasing example and continue growing in your knowledge of God's will by heading up the stairs to study God's Word when your children and grandchildren go down the stairs to do the same in their Sunday School classrooms.

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING Our congregation's leaders, in conjunction with Michigan District officials, have set **Wednesday, September 27 at 7 PM** for a special voters meeting to extend a divine call to a pastor to serve our congregation.



FIRST SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS TO CONTINUE The board is committed to continue to provide refreshments after the 8:00 service on the first Sundays of the month during the school year. Join us **October 1**.

If you wish to provide refreshments for that day, or any other first Sunday of the month, please speak to Karl Remus, Joe Janecke, Jason Leitz, or Pastor Voss.



LADIES FELLOWSHIP will meet **Monday morning, October 2 at 10:00** and will make crafts for the upcoming sale as our mission fundraiser. Join us!

THE NEXT QUARTERLY VOTERS MEETING is **Tuesday, October 24 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 2024 budget ready for consideration by the voters.

An open forum will be held at 11:35 on **Sunday, October 22** 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 20.

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.



SPECIAL SERVICE As Pastor Voss retires from the full time pastoral ministry, our congregation will give thanks to God for his service at a worship service **Sunday, October 29 at 3:00**. Pastor & Laurie's sons, Pastor Joel Voss of Lansing and Pastor Aaron Voss of Wind Lake, Wisconsin, will preach for the service and conduct the liturgy.

A meal and program will be held **at 4:30 that afternoon** at our

school. So that those planning the meal know how many will attend the meal, please sign up on a sheet soon to be posted in the church narthex. If you know of attendees for the meal from outside our congregation, please let Judy Domke know.

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.

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 – The Bible Instruction Class with a retired couple at their home continues.

Catechism Class with one 8th-grade student and one 7th-grade student has begun. The class meets Tuesdays at 5:00. That may need to change in November.

Attendance at Thursday evening summer worship services averaged the high teens.

Working with our congregation's leaders, District President Sims and Pastor Hacker (our congregation's Circuit Pastor) set **Wednesday, September 27 at 7 PM** for a special voters meeting to extend a divine call to a full time pastor to serve the congregation.

Our Lutheran Elementary School and Preschool are off to a great start. The faculty is using our old library for our morning devotion and meeting, and may utilize the room a bit more after the room is painted and carpet is installed. We thank the Board of Trustees and Steve Houser for all their work!

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment 2023-24 school year **Total 36**

Preschool - 8 (Three year olds – 4, Four year olds 4); Kindergarten – 5; Grades 1-5: - 23 (First Grade – 8; Second grade – 4; Third grade – 4; Fourth grade – 2; Fifth grade - 5

Tuition and Fees / Payments and Requisitions - Many families paid tuition in full at the start of school. (No 10% discount)

School Promotion Discussed ownership of school Facebook responsibility once Laurie Voss retires. Currently the board and faculty feel we are at capacity for teacher/student ratio.

Grades 1-5 – Things are going well early in the school year.

Preschool and Kindergarten Portable A/C unit installed and functioning in Preschool room. School is going well early on.

General school items Board will be purchasing a locking mechanism for the classroom doors for security. Discussions about school / church secretary to replace Laurie Voss.

Upcoming events- No school October 4-6 Michigan District Teachers Conference

PTO - Signature cards at the bank have been changed from Darlene Dawley to Christina Engman.

Sunday School - Younger, middle and upper grades teachers have been called and Mrs. Domke will serve as Sunday school music teacher.

After School Care for Preschool (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:30am to 3:30pm) - Was discussed in detail.

Fundraising – MSU Concessions are a go. We are planning on possibly as many as 8 Saturday Red Cedar events at our school this winter.

BOARD OF ELDERS – The Board of Elders recommends the transfer of membership of Dan & Carol Kasischke to Divine Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Lake Orion, MI.

A letter is being written to be sent to inactive members encouraging them to return to worship and asking them what their membership intention is.

Currently Pastor Voss is listed as the "owner" of Playlist and Service Builder. The Elders intend to transfer ownership of both to the next church secretary.

The Board of Elders has received at least two suggestions that we have only one service beginning September 10 to prepare the congregation for only one service during our pastoral vacancy. Because we are already scheduled for two services, the Elders have decided to proceed with two services as planned and make adjustments as needed based on the availability of our vacancy Pastor.

Three contacts with a straying members were made this past month. The Elders encourage all members to actively encourage other members with whom they may have a connection with and who may be inactive.

The Elders continue to discuss our transition to being served by a vacancy pastor.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – We still encourage members to share service links with others.

Recapped the backpack/school supplies donation drive we had August 12th . We handed out 27 backpacks and other school supplies

We continue to look at nominations for open positions on the different boards and positions that are coming to an end of their term. The board will be contacting men about nominations to those positions.

We thank all the summer refreshment hosts!

We will have the first Sunday of the month refreshments between the 8:00 service and the start of Sunday School / Bible Class starting in October 1.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Still waiting on the installation of the new roof heating and cooling units.

Thank you, Victor Domke for: Coordinating new keys and re-coring the locks for school classrooms and exterior entrances; repairs to school windows where the window air conditioners were removed; repairs and updates to the school's old playground playset. With these repairs the playground playset should be in decent and safe condition for the next few years.

Thank you, Pat Crandall, for repairing the toilet in the girls' restroom located by the school office.

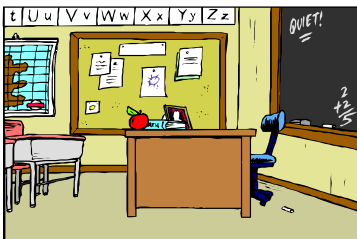
The Board of Trustees discussed the offer from Pastor and Laurie Voss to purchase the washing machine and dryer they purchased and use. After discussion we recommend Pastor and Laurie try to sell them. If they do not receive any offers, they can follow up with the Board of Trustees.

Discussed the "Church Office Tasks for the Secretary" document.

Further discussed the Church parsonage once Pastor and Laurie move to their new home.

Thank you to those who take care of the beautiful flowers at school.

Thank you for all the faithful service to our Savior and to His Church!



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN

This past month we have been getting to know each other better. We have a few new faces and many familiar faces. We are learning the Old Testament Bible lessons this year. We have heard about creation, Noah, and are currently learning about Abraham. It's always fun to reflect on God's unwavering love and faithfulness to us since the beginning of time!

We have been working on name recognition and cutting with the three year olds. The fours have been learning letters A-D and writing left to right on a page. The Kindergartners have started learning letters C, O, G,

and A. They have been reviewing many math concepts so far and in science learning about animals and their habitats.

We have our annual field trip to the Country Mill apple orchard coming up on September 29th.

If you feel so inclined to want to donate to our classroom, we could use gently used or new baby dolls for our dramatic play center, some new backrest pillows for our reading loft in the kindergarten room, or some scented stickers. Thank you for your consideration.

May the Lord bless you with a wonderful beginning to the fall season!

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5

Grades 1-5 are in a good groove! The 23 kids are a happy, sweet bunch of kids. They work and play well together. The older kids are very helpful and kind with the younger ones. The younger kids are grateful for the help their older friends give.

We are studying Old Testament Bible stories this year. Currently, we are learning all about our spiritual ancestor Abraham. We see how Abraham trusted God in every part of his life. Abraham moved to a new country, was a wanderer in a strange land, waited decades for an heir, and yet trusted God that the promises would be kept and the Savior would come from his family.

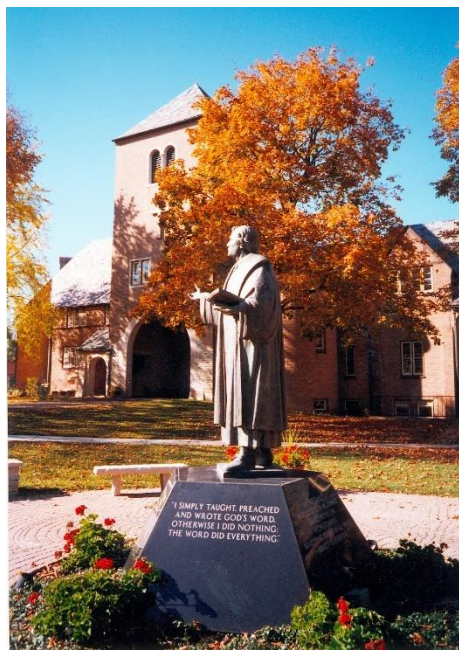
Grades 3-5 are studying life science. We recently built a cell model and looked at cells under our microscope. We continue to learn about how cells work and how they make up plants, animals and people.

Grades 3-5 are studying American History from Indigenous People through the Revolution in Social Studies. Right now we are learning about the Native People of the Northwest area of North America.

We are looking forward to our annual field trip to Country Mill next weekend and having a Taste of Ministry student from MLS visit our classroom in October.

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR OCTOBER SERVICES:

<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	<u>Greeter(s)</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>
10/01 - #10 B. Briggs	#4 Jim Janecke	S. Arnston	A&J Rusnak	need volunteers
10/08 - #7 T. Loeffler	#9 D. Fisher	S. Unruh	V&J Domke	S&N Klaerner
10/15 - #5 S. Houser	#3 Joe Janecke	K. Unruh	G. Withey	J&K Leitz
10/22 - #6 J. Zoran	#8 D. Rector	K. Leitz	J&S Janecke	T&L Loeffler
10/29 - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	R. Olin	H&S Clark	D&S Miller



"I SIMPLY TAUGHT, PREACHED
AND WROTE GOD'S WORD.
OTHERWISE I DID NOTHING.
THE WORD DID EVERYTHING."