



MEMORIAL MESSENGER September 2021



If God is for us, who can be against us? Indeed, He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also graciously give us all things along with Him? What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will trouble or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. (Nothing) will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 8:31-32,35,37,39 EHV)

As this is being written, the Taliban has moved in swiftly to control Afghanistan after US troops left the nation. Blame is being cast on a number of American politicians – past and present. Terror is paralyzing the lives of civilians in Afghanistan due to the ruthless reputation of the Taliban. Concern is being raised in our land about terrorist attacks in connection with the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 devastation.

Where is God in all of this? Right where He's always been – ruling from heaven and at the same time filling the earth. What is He doing about all of this? What He's always been doing – speaking to sinners around the world by His Word and telling them their sins are covered in Christ. What good is that when lives are threatened? It's the greatest good of all: assurance that through faith in the Savior "we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" and that nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Like the people in the towers hit and on the planes hijacked twenty years ago, Jesus knew the destruction that lay ahead of Him in our world. *Unlike* the people in those towers and on those planes, Jesus had the power to stop what would happen to Him at the cross. But had our Savior done that, the result would have been a far worse tragedy than what is happening in Afghanistan now and what happened twenty years ago combined! The result would have been every sinner damned to hell. But He didn't stop His suffering. That's why we devote our lives daily to serving Him who rescued every sinner from certain and deserved punishment forever.

The problems that assail us, the predicaments across our nation, the peril on the other side of the world do *not* mean that God is out of touch, unable to help, too busy to notice. Problems, predicaments, and peril bombard us because we are sinful people living in a sinful world. Who can rescue us? "*Christ Jesus our Lord.*" And not only *can* He rescue us. He *has* rescued us! We belong to Him now and will be with Him forever.

We get the benefits of the work of Jesus in His Word and in His Sacrament. As Sunday School and Bible Class sessions resume, we will make sure that we and our children and grandchildren get what we need from God's Word? That's the way God's love for us in Christ Jesus is given to us. And thus strengthened by God's Word of grace and peace and salvation, we will be His messengers to tell others that even in these depressing and dangerous days, "*we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us!*"
Pastor Voss





OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE continues through Labor Day weekend. Sundays, August 29 and September 5, the worship service begins at **9:00 AM**. There will also be worship services Thursdays, August 26 and September 2 at **7:00 PM**. The Thursday services are the same as the following Sundays' services.

WE RETURN TO OUR REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE on **Sunday, September 12**. Worship services will be held at **8:00** and **10:30** Sunday mornings beginning with that date. Join us!

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS will also begin that morning at 9:15, with in-person classes for both Sunday School and Bible Class.

The Bible Class sessions in September will focus on hymns and orders of service in the new hymnal to be delivered this fall, and will include singing some of what will be in the new hymnal. In October, we will begin a 7-week class on personal evangelism. Join us!

OUR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL YEAR opened Wednesday, August 25 with a service at our school. This year we have 10 students in Preschool, 4 students in Kindergarten, and 23 students in Grades 1-5.

May the Lord of the Church bless the instruction from His Word and in secular subjects provided by our faculty to those students! May our gracious God keep parents and grandparents safe as they transport their children and grandchildren to and from our school each day!

MEDITATIONS The shipment of *Meditations* has arrived. You will find copies of the devotions for September, October, and November in the church narthex. Take a copy and use it daily!

SINGING THE LITURGY / HYMNOSOFT VOLUNTEERS We have resumed singing the liturgy when an organist is playing for the service. ***However, we need more HymnSoft volunteers before we will sing the liturgy at services when HymnSoft volunteers are serving.*** All that is required is to press the spacebar on the computer when music is to be played. No set up of the program or adjustments to the organ are done by our volunteers.

Speak to Laurie Voss to arrange a time to see for yourself how simple it is to run the program. If you wish to become a HymnSoft volunteer, please speak to Pastor Voss.

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.

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

REFRESHMENT HOUR Join us in the fellowship hall after the **Sunday, September 5** worship service for refreshments provided by several families.

We thank all the families who have hosted summer refreshment hours!



CHURCH PICNIC POTLUCK The Board of Evangelism announces a church potluck to be held ***Sunday, September 12*** at our school after the 10:30 worship service at church that morning.

Pulled pork and sloppy joes will be provided, as well as beverages. We ask you to sign up for what you will bring to round out the meal and how many from your family will be attending. We also ask you to bring your own table ware. The sign up

sheet is on the bulletin board.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP will not meet in September. The first meeting this year is now set for ***Monday, October 4 at 7:00 PM***. More details will be provided as that date gets closer. Bring your ideas and get ready to serve together again. 😊

NEW HYMNALS We expect the shipment of new hymnals to arrive in late September or early October. Those of you who ordered your own copy of the hymnal will be asked to submit to Pastor Voss a check for \$23.00 that is made payable to Memorial Lutheran Church shortly after you receive your hymnal.

We will use Bible Class sessions and worship services on September 19 and 26 to begin getting familiar with hymns and liturgical responses in the new hymnal. Join us!

OLD HYMNALS Would you like a copy of the old hymnal once the new hymnals are placed in the hymn racks at church? If so, we'd be happy to have you take home one or more of the old hymnals. Several weeks after the new hymnals arrive, the remaining old hymnal will be taken by a member to be recycled.

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 – WELS News – WELS Congregation Mission Offerings through July continue to run well ahead of the total for the same time frame in 2020, as well as ahead of subscribed amounts. The Michigan District congregations' portion of WELS CMO is likewise ahead of 2020 and subscriptions.

At the WELS Convention the end of July delegates (among many other actions) approved

- the 2-year budget proposed by the Synodical Council, and which calls for slight increases;
- the new WELS Retirement Program being comprised of both the WELS Pension Plan and the new WELS Shepherd Plan.

Because of the number of new hymnals and other books our congregation has ordered, our shipment will arrive via freight truck. To prevent the truck from arriving when no one is here, the Board of Elders has decided to spend \$100-200 more to schedule delivery when several members and I can be here and get the books inside the church.

WELS is providing material for *WELS Hymnal Week* September 19-26. The Bible Class (and maybe worship services) one – or both – of those Sundays will include singing new hymns from the new hymnal, going through orders of service, etc.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment for 2021-2022 is 32; preschool 8, kindergarten 4, grades 105 23.

Classroom Grades 1-5: Judy would like to order a set of 12 chairs for the classroom at an approximate \$400.00 cost. Approved to use PTO funds to order.

Classroom Preschool and Kindergarten: Karla has aides lined up for Preschool mornings, each serving one morning each per week.

General School items: Authorized the purchase of lock-down door stops for the classrooms and office. Judy to purchase with the PTO debit card. A new volunteer has come forward about maintaining the flower bed by the flag pole, and we are grateful for her willingness to do so.

Sunday School: Board intends to have In-person instruction. We discussed moving classrooms to new locations when the fellowship hall work is being done.

VBS: 49 students attended our 3-day VBS. The board thanks our VBS teachers and all who helped with VBS. Between 10-15 Little Leap children VBS.

2021-2022 School Year: The board reviewed the current MDHSS guidance related to mask wearing for the start of the school year. After that review, we will make the following our policy and continue to monitor the situation with regard to changing conditions related to the pandemic. Masks are recommended within the building, but not required. Should there be a positive Covid case, we will require masks be worn in the classroom of the exposure for 14 days. We will go to remote instruction if the school would reach the 30% absence level. We urge parents to continue to exercise good judgement and monitor their student's health before sending them to school each day.

Board ideas for using the \$24,200.00 gift to congregation: Playground equipment, cost to bring internet to the school property (potential grant opportunity), upgraded smart boards.

BOARD OF ELDERS – Pastor will be gone Sunday Oct. 10, 2021. A retired pastor has been contacted about conducting the worship services here that morning.

It has been noted that sometimes when we have a guest preacher conducting services the volume on the PA system is too low, making it difficult to hear the service. We would like to train the Councilmen how to adjust the volume should there be a need to do so in the future.

The new hymnals should be shipped sometime after mid-September.

The Elders continue to review and monitor our worship service practices as they relate to the health and safety of our congregation. With in-person worship attendance slowly starting to rise, and with the high number of mosquitoes, we will not hold outdoor worship services in August or September.

BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP – After-service Presentation this quarter will be done by the Board of Christian Education.

Discussed a new Evangelism effort put forth by the WELS and how we would plan to use it in our church in Bible Class. Our office secretary will try to burn DVDs of the video portion of the 7-week study.

We are thankful for all our thankoffering counters and all their work. The board discussed a note for the counters about how best to record memorial gifts from members.

We thank Kim for printing the *In Grateful Recognition* envelopes.

We discussed the church picnic to be held at school on September 12th

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – Sunrise restoration inspection – waiting for estimates, discussed what we could do ourselves vs. paying a contractor

Strip and wax floors before school starts.

Playground equipment – Victor sent a letter to location in Pickney that has playground equipment at an old school - no response.

Mowing at school -need to get more volunteers – have a schedule for mowing.



BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL

FROM MRS. LEITZ AND PRESCHOOL-KINDERGARTEN:

Preschool 4-year-olds (6 of them) and Kinders (4 of them) started Wednesday August 25. The 3-year-olds (2 of them) started Thursday. Watch next month for news about their fun.

FROM MRS. DOMKE AND GRADES 1-5

We are off to a good start! There are twenty-three students in grades 1-5, raring to go! Despite the warm temperatures and swarms of mosquitoes, we are eager to get to work.

In grades 3-5 we are studying Michigan in Social Studies. Hopefully we'll be able to visit some places this year to supplement our books and videos. In science we are studying earth science.

First and second grades are ready to tackle school with the "big kids" and are eager to prove that they are up to the challenge.

Many thanks to so many for the help getting ready for school! Many thanks, especially to Pat Crandall for all his "extra" work!!!

SERVING OUR LORD FOR OUR SEPTEMBER SERVICES:

| <u>8:00</u> | <u>10:30</u> | <u>Altar Guild</u> | <u>Greeter(s)</u> | <u>Cleaners</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 9/05 - #7 D. Kasischke | | R. Olin | M. Bennett | C&A Rhodea |
| 9/12 - #5 C. Rhodea | #4 J. Zoran | S. Rector | C&K Collins | N. Russell |
| 9/19 - #2 V. Domke | #1 T. Marion | K. Ward | B. Janecke | J&J Staffeld |
| 9/26 - #5 S. Houser | #3 J. Janecke | K. Leitz | K&A Remus | J&M Stiefel |

