



# MEMORIAL MESSENGER *September 2023*



*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory He has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.* John 1:1-2,14

In this age of social media, many people check Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter) —and check social media several times a day. They want to see what their family, friends, and favorite celebrities are posting.

What if the Lord used Facebook or Instagram or X? What if He posted from heaven something important for us to read every day, every hour on one of those forms of social media? We'd check that out, wouldn't we?

But we don't, do we? Of course, the Triune God has never posted anything on any social media outlet. But He does publicize the fact that He has given us something eternally important to read every day. He does desire that we let His Word " *dwell in us richly*" (Colossians 3:16).

Do we? Do we turn to Holy Scripture as eagerly as we await something new about the grandchildren on Facebook? As often as we look for something exciting from a classmate on Instagram? As interested as we check for controversial comments from an actor on X? Or do we excuse our lack of attention to God's Word with a casual, "I've read it before and I still know what it says!"?

This month Christian Education efforts in our congregation are in high gear again. We'll resist Satan's temptations to consider Bible Class, Sunday School classes, Catechism Class, Bible Instruction Class, ChristLight instruction, and other classes as just programs offered by our church and school – programs we can either take or leave without any particular blessing or harm. Such sessions are opportunities to study God's unchanging truth, to get His direction for every situation every day, to hear His desires for our lives, to review His plans and work to save us sinners.

Jesus describes Himself as "*the Word*". What we read on the pages of Holy Scripture is what our Savior says to us. We are told that "*the Word became flesh*". Jesus lived what He said, fulfilled what His prophets foretold, and completed the mission which is the focus of the Word, *His Word*: salvation for every sinner.

We all want a closer walk with God. But a closer walk with the Almighty doesn't happen by sitting on a sand dune or watching an eclipse or mowing the lawn. The Savior draws near to us in His Word where He exposes our sinfulness and the hell we deserve, then reveals His forgiveness and the heaven He opens.

No one needs Facebook or Instagram or X to survive. But no one can survive forever without the Word dwelling in them. Send your children or grandchildren to our school and to Sunday School. Study God's Word with us in Bible Class. Consider attending the next Bible Instruction Class for a thorough review of God's truth. We go daily to the Word to hear what the Savior has to say. Let that become a regular part of your daily life!

*Pastor Voss*



**FOREVER WITH THE LORD!** Our crucified and risen Savior called to Himself in heaven the soul of our brother in the faith **Fred Mills** early August 14.

We ask our gracious God to comfort Fred's wife Norma, their children, and the rest of Fred's loved ones with the assurance of eternal life in heaven for all who fall asleep in death trusting the Savior, as did Fred.

**OUR SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE** continues through Labor Day weekend. Sundays, August 27 and September 3, the worship service begins at **9:00 AM**. There will also be worship services Thursdays, August 24 and August 31 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 10**. Worship services will be held at **8:00** and **10:30** Sunday mornings beginning with that date. Join us!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS** sessions begin **September 10**, 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.

**OUR SCHOOL AND PRESCHOOL YEAR** opened Tuesday, August 22 with a service at our school. This year we have 8 students in Preschool, 5 students in Kindergarten, and 23 students in Grades 1-5.



The theme for the school year is *Put Your Hope in the LORD!* The theme is taken from the truth of Psalm 42:2,11: *My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and appear before God?<sup>11</sup> Why are you so depressed, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I will again praise him for my salvation from the face of my God.*

Our theme hymn for the school year is the beautiful rendition of Psalm 42 that we used in worship in July, *As the Deer Pants for Water, So My Soul Longs After You.*

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 His 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!

**REFRESHMENT HOURS** will be held after the worship service **the first Sunday of each month this summer**. Please join us **September 3!**

The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship thanks all who have hosted the summer refreshments.

**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.



**POTLUCK DINNER** The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship is organizing a potluck dinner to follow the late service **Sunday, September 10** and be held in our **church fellowship hall**.

Please sign up on the church bulletin board to indicate what kind of food you will bring for the meal, and how many from your family will attend.

***Please bring your own tableware, if you can. Drinks will be provided.***



**LADIES FELLOWSHIP** will meet **Monday morning, September 11 at 10:00**. Join us!

**PLAYLIST VOLUNTEERS** We are now using ***Playlist***, the replacement for the HymnSoft computer music program, when an organist is not playing for the worship service.

Volunteers, Pastor or Laurie Voss will show you how ***Playlist*** works. It's very similar to HymnSoft, but there are some subtle changes.

***New volunteers to operate the computer program are always welcome. Please speak to Pastor or Laurie Voss to see how things work.***

**PASTORAL VACANCY** Michigan District President, Pastor Snowden Sims of St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church – Columbus, Ohio, met with members for a pre-call meeting on August 22.

Watch for announcements from our Church Council about the date of a divine call meeting to call a pastor to fill the vacancy created by Pastor Voss' retirement on October 31.

Because of the fact that 4 of the 10 congregations in our area are, or will be, vacant, a vacancy pastor call was not able to be extended at the August 22 meeting. District President Sims needs more time to contact pastors who might be available to serve here as vacancy pastor starting November 1.

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL EVENT THANKS** We received a lot of donations in the form of backpacks, school supplies, and cash for the August 12 back-to-school giveaway event. The Board of Evangelism & Stewardship thanks our members for all the donations. About 10 families stopped that Saturday afternoon to pick up supplies you donated.

What wasn't given away this summer will be stored for a similar event next summer.

**WORK ON OUR SCHOOL BUILDING** As of August 22 the company with which we have signed a contract to replace the rooftop units at school has not begun the work approved by the voters in June. Until that work is done, we are not running the air conditioning in the gym.

Our faculty and the parents of our school students thank the Board of Trustees and the Board of Christian Education for the research done on, and the installation of, an air conditioning unit for the Preschool room.

The Church Council has approved the replacement of carpeting in the two classrooms leased by the day care that used our school the past four years, as well as in the office that was used. Discussions continue about painting some (or all) of those rooms, too.

**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!

**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 Carol Hawley, sister of Don Hoag, was completed in July and Carol was received by adult confirmation on July 23.

Steve & Barb Harkness have completed five lessons in our study of God's Word. They are also regularly attending our Thursday evening services this summer.

**WELS news** The report on Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) submitted through June 2023 shows that CMO is right on pace with the first half of 2022 across the Synod, though Michigan District congregations have submitted slightly less than they did the first six months of last year.

The WELS Convention met July 31 – August 3 at MLS in Saginaw. Since I prepared this report on July 29 (before we left for vacation), I will update the Council orally on decisions reached at the convention.

Attendance at Thursday evening summer worship services May 25 – July 27 (no service July 6): 16, 13, 21, 19, 27, 33, 23, 22, 17.

Our thanks to Kim Fedewa and Laurie Voss for work to get the new Playlist software in line and equipment for our church computer to play it. Playlist comes from the computer and through the speakers that are connected to the microphones, which is why it sounds different than HymnSoft sounded.

**BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Enrollment** Projected for 2023-24 school year (as of 7-24-23)

**Preschool – 9** (Three year olds – 5, Four year olds 4); **Kindergarten – 5**; **Grades 1-5: 23** - First Grade – 8  
Second grade – 3 - Third grade – 5 Fourth grade – 2 Fifth grade - 5

**Grades 1-5** Mrs. Domke will have 3 more students than last year. Discussed possible need for an aide.

**Preschool and Kindergarten** Discussed purchasing an air conditioner for Preschool room. Reviewed need for aides for Mrs. Leitz, and who might fill the role.

**General school items** Lock down security ideas remains on our list for review. Discussed in detail possibilities for ways to secure classroom doors that open out into the hallway. The board desires changing exterior and interior locks on doors used by Little Leap. Office secretary candidates were discussed as well as the possibility of this being a work-from-home position or hybrid.

**PTO** The board approved changing signature cards at the bank from Darlene Dawley to Christina Engman. Looking at September 11<sup>th</sup> for fall PTO meeting at school.

**Add upper grade teacher and principal for 2023-24 school year** We will make plans based on parent feedback to begin the call process again for the 2024-25 school year.

The board recommended lowering tuition rates for the 2023-24 school year as we were not blessed with an upper grades teacher and principal. Revised rates were approved by our voters.

**VBS** - Was a success! During the week we had over 50 different students attend at least one day of VBS, The Board thanks all our teachers and volunteers for helping to share God's Word with our attendees.

**BOARD OF ELDERS** – Playlist was ordered June 28 at \$225 a year subscription. Currently Pastor Voss is listed as the “owner” of Playlist. The Elders will discuss who should be designated as the owner of Playlist when Pastor retires.

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

**BOARD OF EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP** – We discussed a backpack/school supplies donation drive for August 12. Publicity is being done via Facebook, contacting local school PTA groups, and our church sign.

We continue to look at nominations for open positions on the different boards and positions that are coming to an end of their term on December 31.

A brief note about our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary will appear in *Forward in Christ*.

The church picnic will be September 10<sup>th</sup> at church in the fellowship hall.

We are looking for someone in the congregation to be the WELS Pension Plan administrator in our congregation; someone with a bit of financial management experience.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** – The new roof heating and cooling units are scheduled for installation later in August.

The Trustees walked through the vacated Little Leap Daycare was using and discussed the following.

a. Discussed the Board of Educations proposed usage for each room.

b. The carpets in the former principal’s office and upper grade classrooms were the dirtiest.

c. Each room had window air conditioning units removed. We are looking for the old windows which may have been disposed. If we are unable to locate, we will determine a plan to replace or repair.

d. The old library doors will be reinstalled for the restroom and storage closet.

We are currently researching the cost to strip and refinish all vinyl tiled floors in the school.

We discussed the search and the on-boarding for a church secretary to replace the faithful service Laurie Voss has provided for many years.

We further discussed the church parsonage once Pastor and Laurie move to their new home.

We discussed the maintenance of vacuum cleaners at church and school.

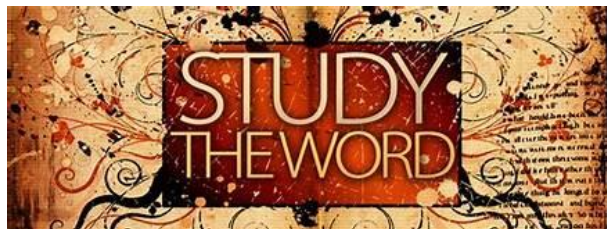
Parking lots will not be resealed this year, we are going to wait until 2024. This will allow time to see how much more settling will take place in the church parking lot through next spring.

The current church and school lawn mowing is going well. Thank you to all the volunteers.

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

Thank you, Kim Fedewa, for the paver work leading to the school flagpole.

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



## ***BADGER NEWS from SCHOOL***

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

Mrs. Leitz will have news next month and thanks you for your prayers and support for our school this year.

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

Back to school! Those words still thrill me, even after all these years. I'm so grateful to teach your children and grandchildren the truths about our Savior Jesus. I know our God will bless another year of learning at Memorial.

As of today I will have 23 children in grades 1-5... a bumper crop! I will have nine boys and fourteen girls.

Some people have asked about needed supplies for my classroom. Because I do lots of journaling, I use several pieces of scotch type tape each day for each child. The refill rolls are greatly appreciated. The Scotch and Meijer brands are the best, either the clear or invisible.

We also like to display student work in the hallway and use masking tape. Again, the Scotch brand, either the 1 inch or the 1.5 inch size.

Thanks for your continued generous support of our school.

**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>
9/03 - #1 T. Marion		L. Voss	L. Voss	D&R Hoag
9/10 - #5 S. Houser	#3 Joe Janecke	M. Zoran	D. Steiner	S. Houser
9/17 - #6 J. Zoran	#8 D. Rector	R. Hoag	L&K Ward	B. Janecke
9/24 - #2 V. Domke	#1 T. Marion	M. Groop	P&S Crandall	J&S Janecke

