

WORSHIP WITH US!

Thursdays at 6:00pm
Sundays at 8:00am & 9:30am



AUGUST 2014

OUR SAVIOR'S MESSENGER

Vol. 50 No. 7

Telephone 452-4005 ♦ e-mail oursavior917@sbcglobal.net ♦ website: www.oslcsheboygan.com

Growing in Faith

Dear Christian Friends,

Have you ever heard someone say, "I wish I had a stronger faith."? At times we make a remark like this because we see such a strong commitment and faith in the lives of other Christians, while we seem to be lacking in our trust in the Lord.

While admiring the faith of another Christian, we dare not overlook the fact that we, like the other Christian, have been greatly blessed by God. We're a part of the family of God—the Church. And the Heavenly Father sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for us as well. We're numbered among the heroes of the faith, people like, Abraham, Sarah, Paul, Peter, James, John, and Mary. As an individual, you're included in Christ's family.

At your Baptism the Triune God planted the seeds of faith in your heart and promised to forgive all your sins. Through the years, that faith has grown through the hearing and study of God's Word and the reception of Christ's Body and Blood. In faith you have come to know Christ as Savior and you have experienced God's peace in the midst of life's trials.

Yes, we may admire the faith of other Christians and look up to the Bible's heroes of the faith.

But let's not forget that we have the same Savior and the same word of truth.

It is my prayer that each member of Our Savior's will desire to grow in faith through the study of God's Word. You have that opportunity each Sunday, beginning on September 7, 2104, Family Bible Hour will resume. The youth of the congregation meet in the various classrooms throughout our building, while the adults meet in the lower fellowship hall from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. You're invited to join us for this casual study and discussion of God's Word. I look forward to seeing you as we grow in faith, hope and love.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Marcus Powers

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS RESUME

It's important for all of us to learn God's Word. Through our study and discussions about the Word, God gives us the strength necessary to stand our ground against the devil. Ongoing Christian education is a vital tool in that struggle.

Our Savior's Sunday school will start classes on Sunday, September 7th at 9:15am. Look for registration information in the mail!

Bible Classes will start on Sunday, September 7th and Monday, September 8th.

**Treasurer's Report
June 2014**



Financial Report

	<u>June 2014</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Income		
Offerings	\$ 21,949.00	\$ 126,393.53
Building Fund	937.00	7,351.75
Other	<u>1,569.98</u>	<u>17,849.72</u>
Total Income	<u>\$24,455.98</u>	<u>\$151,595.00</u>
Expenses		
Missions and Outreach	\$ 75.00	\$10,595.00
Salaries and Benefits	17,445.39	85,372.40
Mortgage Payments	1,179.50	8,439.50
Christian Education	1,368.97	4,592.51
Office and Maintenance	3,520.89	24,039.99
Other	<u>2,151.62</u>	<u>18,048.25</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 26,541.37</u>	<u>\$ 150,884.33</u>
Net Income (Expense)	<u>\$(2,085.39)</u>	<u>\$ 710.67</u>

Loan Progress Report

Principal Balance at 8.10.07	\$ 190,000.00
Less: Principal Pmts to Date	<u>(157,532.91)</u>
Principal Balance at 6.28.14	<u>\$ 32,467.09</u>

- The building loan has been refinanced at an interest rate of 4.875%, fixed for 10 years at a monthly payment for \$950.
- The Church Council has decided that the monthly loan payment should match the monthly contributions whenever giving is greater than \$950.

"We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee."

"And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee."
(LSB 781)

CEP Parent Orientation Meeting

A special CEP Orientation will be held on **Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:00 p.m.** This meeting is **MANDATORY** for all students and at least one parent must be present before your child can start CEP on **September 10th**. At this meeting you will meet individually with your child's CEP teacher review the class requirements for your child's grade. Also, registration forms and fees must be completed and paid at the orientation and the 2014-2015 handbook will be distributed. All information forms and fees will be sent out to all CEP homes in mid-August.

In addition to the evening meeting, we are planning a special presentation for all **5th graders and new students** at the **10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, September 7th**. During the service Pastor Powers will ask all 5th grade students and any new students to come forward to receive their 'Faith Alive' Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Following a blessing of the Bibles and catechisms, the Board of Christian Education will distribute the books to all students. These tools will be used through all four years of CEP

Our CEP staff looks forward to working with you and your child(ren). As we work together (and that's the key) we know that Christ will bless our Christian Education Program at Our Savior's. See you there!

**Opportunity for Bible Study:
The Great Deceiver!**

Is Satan a real being, or is he just an outdated representation of evil? The Bible speaks of him as a rebel angel leading his minions against God, the holy angels, and all God's children. But recent surveys suggest a majority of Christians in the United States don't believe Satan really exists.

In this four session video Bible study, beginning on **Sunday, September 7, 2014, at 9:15 a.m.** in the **lower fellowship hall**, we will examine this most perverse character in Scripture: Satan. Popular culture may portray the devil as a cartoon character in a red jumpsuit, in need of our sympathy, or as having gone down to Georgia, but those characterizations only muddy the waters.

Though we continue to be in spiritual conflict with the devil, the victory is ours in Jesus; by His cross on Calvary, Jesus, conquered the old evil foe. Though defeated and his end certain, Satan is still on the prowl. Spend some time getting to know him—from the Bible's point of view.

Through personal study and voluntary input from class participants (adults and high school students), you will grow in faith and find that "the Word of the Lord endures forever" (1Peter 1:24-25). See you on Sunday, September 7th at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Special Door Offering to be collected Aug. 7, 10, 14 & 17.

As many of you heard on the news at the end of June, a twin tornado tore through the small town of Pilger, Nebraska, leveling most of the town and damaging many homes and businesses in the surrounding area. Our sister congregation, St. John, Pilger, was destroyed, as was the parsonage. The church properties were insured, but many of her members lost not only their homes, but their livelihoods as well. The door offerings taken for two weeks August 7th & 10th and the 14th & 17th, will be used to assist members in getting their lives back in order. The pastor of the church, Rev. Terry Makelin, will disperse the funds as needed. If you would like to add a note of encouragement, you can drop notes in the special door offering plate as well.

As a side note, I did my DCE internship and served St. Paul's in Wisner, a few miles from Pilger, prior to coming to Sheboygan. Many dear people, whose lives are spent farming, lost everything in a matter of minutes. I can't imagine where one would start to recover from such a loss. May God move you to reach out to your brothers and sisters in Christ, through the door offering. If you want to make out a check, it can be made out to: St. John Lutheran, Pilger. Let me know if I can answer any questions you might have. Thank you in advance. Janine Bergeron

Update on Church Rummage Sale

Wow! Where has the year gone? Only 2 ½ months and it will be time for the rummage sale. Reminder—the dates are Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18.

Feel free to start bringing your items you have been saving to the church fellowship hall. Bill will have the floors waxed by August 15th. If possible, large furniture items should be held until the week before the sale when we can put them upstairs. If you must get it out do to a move or such, please bring it down to the hall. If you need an evening drop off time, please call

Clara at 457-2658 to set up a mutually agreeable time to meet at church.

Sign-up sheets to work the days of the sale will be posted in church after Labor Day weekend. Remember, "many hands make light work." We will be sorting and pricing items the two weeks prior to the sale. Come down to help whenever you can make it. We plan to have a couple evenings for those who wish to volunteer to help sort, but cannot make it during the day.

Last year we cleared over \$6000 which was used to lower the building fund debt. It would be amazing if we could meet or exceed that amount this year. That is possible only if we have the donations and manpower to host the event. So clean out those storage cabinets, attics, and closets and come on down!

Looking Back and Looking Forward - Reflections by Elaine Phillips

As I was cleaning out the choir folders and filing our music away, I thought back to the beginning of this past choir season. We started the season with 15 singers. I am thankful that God has blessed us with very dedicated people. They let me know when they won't be able to be present for a performance Sunday. That helps me plan ahead. With the positive comments I have heard, I think this inspiring group has added their talents very well to Our Savior's worship services.

For many different reasons, our group was down to 11 singers by June. And it looks like we may have to accept the loss of one more, because of a move. The plain truth is, We Need Singers!

Please consider giving our music ministry a try. You are very welcome, even if you have never tried the choir experience before. We will help guide you through the music, even if you don't read notes. It can truly be an uplifting feeling to be part of a choral group, adding special music to our worship. Please prayerfully consider joining us in September.

One more reflection.....and this is personal.

I began my service to the Lord in church music at the age of 14, when my small country church, St. Thomas in rural Waldo, invited me to take the job of organist. I was their organist all through my high school years. After studying as a music major at UW-Eau Claire, I

was married in my church and moved to Japan (with my Air Force husband) were I was organist, adult choir accompanist and children's choir director. It seemed everywhere I moved, church musicians were needed, and I served the Lord where He gave me the opportunity, including Wyoming, Upper Michigan and Quebec.

I always thought that when I reached my 50th year of serving the Lord and his congregations through music that I would quietly retire and let others have the opportunity. This summer I have reached that anniversary (oops, gave away my age with that one!). I started with Our Savior's Church in the fall of 2002. I have truly enjoyed the past 12 years that I have been here. In fact, I've enjoyed it enough to decide that I'd like to continue serving here. I have worked with some truly wonderful people here, who are dedicated to praising the Lord in song. It is truly a blessing to work with them. I thank and praise the Lord, that He has given me the ability to serve him in this way. Soli Deo Gloria

NOTES FROM THE PARISH NURSE

Dear Friends in Christ:

Fun in the sun. Summer has finally come. We have waited a long time for the weather to warm. So let's not overdo.

Some safety tips should be used by all. Read labels on sunscreens so that you use them properly. Make sure you apply enough and reapply frequently. Make sure they are age appropriate and the right cream, spray or lotion for you needs. This is especially important for infants and toddlers.

Limit exposure during peak sun hours. The sun is highest and most harmful between 12-4pm. Wear hats and wraparound sunglasses with UVA/UVB protection.

If you have a low Vitamin D level, 10 to 15 minutes of sun daily will help that.

Should you burn, the sting and pain can be alleviated with cool compresses and lotion/ointment containing aloe.

Make sure you are properly hydrated. Drink plenty of water. Alcohol and too much caffeine can increase dehydration.

If you become overheated (heat stroke), you may have nausea, dizziness, disorientation, flushing and profuse sweating. Immediately get out of the sun to a cool place, use cool water to rinse your body, take cool fluids slowly, as "icy" fluids may make matters worse.

So let's be safe and enjoy the outdoors.

God's blessings to all.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Deb Kuitert, Parish Nurse

Blood Pressure Checks: Sunday, August 3rd

Office Hours:

Mondays: 2:45-4:50pm

Thursdays: 4:00-5:55pm

Pastoral Acts

Funerals

Mrs. Marion Batina

Age: 92

Died: June 5, 2014

Laid to Rest: June 9, 2014

Mrs. Lois Zander

Age: 75

Died: June 13, 2014

Laid to Rest: June 16, 2014

Mrs. Marilyn Kaboord

Age: 77

Died: July 2, 2014

Laid to Rest: July 5, 2014

Mr. Leonard Doelder

Age: 91

Died: July 7, 2014

Laid to Rest: July 9, 2014

MEMORIAL GIFTS

\$545.00 in memory of Leonard Doelder towards debt reduction

\$1,020 in memory of Marilyn Kaboord towards window repair

\$400.00 in memory of Helen Ferk

✠ ✠ ✠ **Our Savior's Lutheran Church** ✠ ✠ ✠
Memorial Wall—Tile Request Form

Dear Family of God,

We believe the gift of a tile for the Memorial Wall is a practical way for remembering a loved one or expressing thanks to God for His blessings and at the same time to help with the necessary preservation of the Lord's house. Your willingness to serve the Lord with your financial gifts is an ongoing expression of Christian faith and love done for God's glory.

Thanks for all you have done and continue to do for the Lord—the Board of Trustees

Your Name: _____ Date: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

How do you wish to be contacted in the future (*Circle one*). Phone Email

What information would you like printed on your tile? For example,

- To the Glory of God, Harry and Sally Williams
- In memory of John Smith, the Jones Family
- In thoughtfulness and praise for all God's blessings, the Gaither Family
- In memory of Mr. & Mrs. B. Allen—Mr. & Mrs. C. Bradley
- Jesus, the Rock of Ages

Please note: there is a maximum of 20 characters (including spaces) per line and 4 lines per tile.

My gift of \$ _____ (*Fill in the amount, \$250.00 or more*) for church improvements will be given as (*Circle one*):

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| a. Single installment of 100% | c. Three monthly installments of 33.33% |
| b. Two monthly installments of 50% | d. Four monthly installments of 25% |

Please place the completed form and your gift in an envelope and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate. Upon full payment the tile will be ordered and then affixed to the wall; at that time you will be notified by phone or e-mail. Contact Ken Halverson (467-3671), Chairman of the Trustees, with any questions.

✠ ✠ ✠
Soli Deo Gloria
(Glory to God Alone)
✠ ✠ ✠

Church Projects Completed by the Trustees Since 2012

1. Reinforce main church pews--done in house by the trustees
 2. Various electrical projects--\$600.00
 3. Replace heat and air unit in Parish Nurse's Office--\$2,985.00
 4. Replace heat and air unit in Pastor's Office--\$2,985.00
 5. Replace gutters and downspouts--\$2,192.00
 6. Paint exterior windows (90 % Complete)--\$400.00
 7. Replace carpet in Sunday School nursery and classrooms--\$5,048.00
 8. Replace carpet in Parish Nurse's Office, stairs, and office hall--\$2,700.00
 9. Organ renovation (converted to digital format)--\$26,500.00
-

Future Church Projects Planned by the Trustees

1. Replace carpet in Kory's, Brett's, and Pastor's offices--\$4,140
 2. Replace windows in Church Offices, both downstairs and upstairs, with Maintenance-free, insulated glass, and aluminum-clad wood casing--\$14,000.00
 3. Stained-glass windows to be reset in new wooden sashes with aluminum-clad exteriors; stained wooden interior, and thermo-pane glass on the exterior side for protection--\$11,140.00
 4. Finish the exterior painting (Item 6, above) of the three stained-glass window units, requires the use of a lift--\$375.00
 5. Replace the concrete parking spots for the handicapped on South side of the church--\$2,825.00
 6. Replace the concrete for the office entrance on South side of the church--\$1,780.00
 7. Replace entry doors in office area (North and East sides)--\$2,370.00
 8. Material and labor to convert the eternal flame in the chancel to a low-voltage electrical unit--\$775.00
 9. Replace three toilets in men's and women's restrooms with comfort height toilets--\$750.00
-

As always, your gifts for these projects are appreciated.

If you're interested in providing financial support for the future projects listed above perhaps you'd like to consider purchasing a ceramic tile for the Memorial Wall in the narthex; these funds are designated for church improvements. To purchase a tile you may contact the church office (452-4005) or pick up a form near the wall and provide the information requested. Tiles are available for contributions of \$250 and up. We believe the purchase of a tile is a practical way for remembering a loved one or expressing thanks to God for His blessings and at the same time to help with the necessary preservation of the Lord's house.

Thanks again for all you have done and continue to do in serving the Lord by helping with these vital projects.

In Christ's Service—the Board of Trustees

Dear Family of God,

(Please note: the quotations included in the following article are taken from a piece entitled, "Information on Marriage Policies for Member Congregations" on the LCMS website.)

With the benefit of hindsight I think the only thing that is consistent in life is that nothing is permanent, things seem to be constantly changing. This is especially true when one looks at societal trends in regard to the definition of marriage.

Not so many years ago marriage was clearly understood to be based upon the biblical definition of one man and one woman becoming one flesh. "This understanding of marriage is not, however, the view of many people. An undeniable fact: marriage is no longer understood to be the lifelong bond of one man and one woman. Countless millions now believe that marriage is a loving, legal commitment between any two individual adults."

"For the LCMS and its congregations these societal (*and legal trends*) present great challenges; pressure on churches to accommodate their teachings and practices to the changing societal view of marriage is increasing. Some church bodies have endorsed same-sex marriage in contradiction to clear biblical teaching. Will cultural attitudes or biblical truth guide our teaching and practice?"

"Due to some concern over at least one reported case of a nonprofit organization losing a partial real-estate tax exemption for refusing to rent a seaside pavilion on its property that was open to the public to a same-sex couple for a civil union, it would be prudent to include a provision in your marriage policy limiting the use of the congregation's property for marriages that are consistent with your beliefs and policies on marriage."

The Elders and Church Council recently discussed this issue at their July meetings and unanimously recommended the congregation take this step for amending our constitution.

Below you will find additional information taken from the website of the LCMS that relates to this topic. Please read through it and the proposed amendment entitled, "Policy in Regard to Marriage." The congregation will be asked to consider the approval of this amendment to our constitution and bylaws at the **October 19, 2014 voters' meeting**. As noted in the bylaws of the congregation "to effect such revision . . . a two-thirds majority vote of the members present shall be necessary."

The desire of our congregational leadership is to show faithfulness to the Word of God, believing that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman and is not a political opinion or cultural bias. We know the Lord of the Church will guide us with His Spirit to be winsome and faithful with the truth of His Word, and above all, with the saving Gospel of Christ.

Pastor Marcus Powers

Information on Marriage Policies for Member Congregations
(The following information is an excerpt from the LCMS website)

- The Holy Scriptures teach that God, in creating the world, gave marriage to be the life-long union of one man and one woman (Gen 2:24), a gift to be held in honor and kept pure (Heb 13:4; 1Th 4:2-5).
- Marriage cannot be rightly understood apart from another gift: the gift of children. As he creates man and woman, God says, "Be fruitful and multiply" (Gen 1:28).

- The Bible, in Ephesians 5:21-33, connects marriage to the holy union of Christ and His “bride,” the church.
- Every congregation and called worker of the LCMS accepts the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice.
- This understanding of marriage is not, however, the view of many people. An undeniable fact: marriage is no longer understood to be the lifelong bond of one man and one woman. Countless millions now believe that marriage is a loving, legal commitment between any two individual adults.
- For the LCMS and its congregations these societal and legal trends present great challenges.
- The church cannot concede to “Caesar” what belongs only to God (Matt 22:21). His Word and His alone must guide the church, not human opinions. Will cultural attitudes or biblical truth guide our teaching and practice?
- For these reasons, it is recommended that congregations affirm their beliefs to include a provision on your marriage policy limiting the use of the congregation’s property for marriages that are consistent with your beliefs and policies on marriage.

Below is the proposed marriage policy for Our Savior’s Lutheran Church that is consistent with the Synod’s biblical beliefs on marriage.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IS AS FOLLOWS

Article 23—Policy in Regard to Marriage

The marriage policy of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod’s beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). The official position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Res. 3-21 (“To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions”), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator’s design (Rom. 1:26-27). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and “marriage.” Our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy.

The suggested policy statement provided above will provide a measure of legal protection for our congregations to be able to maintain the LCMS’s firm biblical convictions about marriage. We should realize, however, that given the speed of change in opinions about marriage, other legal threats may well arise.

It would be foolhardy to ignore the grim threats to biblical teaching and practice that we are facing. Yet, it would be far more foolhardy to be overcome by fear because of these challenges, “for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). “For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom 8:38-39). We urge all our congregations not to live in fear, but to engage our communities winsomely, lovingly, and faithfully with the glorious truths of God’s Word and, above all, with the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

~ August 2014 ~							Sep 2014
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2	
3 7:30-9:30am Blood Pressure Screening 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:30am Divine Worship	4 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Board Meetings	5	6	7 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	8	9	
10 8:00am Divine Worship 9:30am Divine Worship with Communion	11 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse 6:30pm Council	12	13 9:00am Quilters	14 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	15 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	16	
17 8:00am Divine Worship with Communion 9:30am Divine Worship	18 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse	19	20	21 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	22	23	
24 8:00am Divine Worship 9:30am Divine Worship with Communion	25 2:45-4:50pm Parish Nurse	26	27	28 4:00-5:55pm Parish Nurse 6:00pm Divine Worship with Communion	29	30	
31 8:00am Divine Worship 9:30am Divine Worship	Notes: Sunday School will begin at 9:30am on September 7th. Adult Bible Class will begin at 9:30am on September 7th or 10:00am on September 8th. CEP orientation will take place on September 3rd and classes will start on September 10th.						