



MONONA MESSENGER

MAY 2024

+ Begin Again +

Moses, the mighty leader who turned his back on a position of power in order to live among his own people, had died at the age of 120, with his eyesight still keen and his strength unwavering (Deuteronomy 34:7). It was a time of mourning, but God raised up another leader, Joshua, and God did mighty works through him, too, to affirm his leadership and cause the people to follow him and obey him with the same loyalty they had had for Moses (Joshua 1:16-18).

Everyone dies (Well, almost everyone!), and so did Joshua. In fact, before long, "that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, [and] another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord..." (Judges 2:10-11).

"What happened?" we think. "How could this happen?" We wonder. So, begin again many years of cycle after cycle of Israelite rebellion, judgment and discipline from the Lord, repentance on the part of the chosen people, forgiveness and rest from a forgiving God, and then the cycle beginning again.

This isn't just a story in the Bible placed there so we can shake our heads and point our fingers in judgment. We remember Paul writing, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

How important it is that we are good stewards of the Gospel! The prophet wrote, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Parents, grandparents, and Godparents must be diligent to teach the Word of God to their children lest they grow up not knowing the Lord or what He has done for us (Judges 2:10). All Christians must see the urgency of spreading the Gospel—to the next-door neighbor, to the clerk in the store, to the friends on the Christmas card list, to those in far off lands—lest they be lost because they had no knowledge of the Lord (Hosea 4:6). Every Easter we are reminded to "Come and See, then Go and Tell"

There's something about the afterglow of Easter that motivates us to begin again. Of all the projects you plan to begin again this spring, of all the efforts at self-improvement that you plan to begin again, let it be uppermost on your agenda to begin again to be a zealous steward of the Gospel.

Working the harvest with you!

Pastor Nowak

Monona’s Endowment Fund

Did you know Monona Lutheran Church has an Endowment Fund? An endowment fund, quite simply, is money set aside (invested) to earn revenue to fund some type of charitable activity. Monona Lutheran Church’s Endowment Fund supports things like programs within the congregation, church worker scholarships, local ministries, church facilities and expansion, etc. The Endowment Fund does so by using returns on its investments, while preserving the original gifts it receives. If you’re interested in further information on the Endowment Fund or considering an Endowment Fund donation, please review one of the brochures available on the table in the Fellowship Hall or talk to one of the Endowment Fund Board members. Your gift to the Endowment Fund will become a gift that keeps giving.



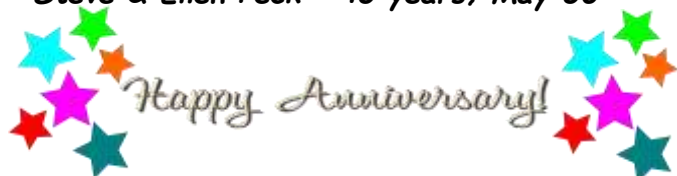
Birthdays in MAY

- Meghan Steingraber 1**
- Addyson Steingraber 9**
- Emma Steingraber 11**
- Gary Steingraber 12**
- Diana Russell 13**
- Wayne Kosbau 14**
- Owen Loss 15**
- Ann Rubin 19**
- Dan Neuser 21**
- Andrea Noll 21**
- Sharon Bottoms 25**
- Gloria Lawton 26**
- Judie Krubsack 30**



Anniversaries in May

- Paul & Susan Felton - 14 years; May 21st**
- Steve & Ellen Peck - 43 years; May 30th**



June Monona Messenger Articles are due on or before **May 20th, 2024**. Articles can be emailed to the church office or dropped off at the church. No late articles, please.

May 12^h, 2024

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May.



LWML

The next LWML Get Together will be on Monday, May 6th at the Steingraber’s beginning at 9:00 am.

Save the Dates

June 14th & 15th

The 2024 LWML-SWD Convention will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran. The convention theme is “Abiding in Christ’s Love” and the speaker will be Carolyn Blum. There will be a Mission Walk on Friday followed by a cookout. UW Campus is the recipient of gifts given from the Heart. Items to be brought: colorful writing utensils, highlighters, sticky notes, individual packaged snacks, single serve coffee, tea or hot chocolate. General registration forms and other important information can be found on the LWML-SWD website and on the LWML table.

September 27th & 28th

LWML-SWD Fall Retreat will be held at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Fond du lac. The theme is based on Deb Burma’s “Treasured”. Recipients of the in-gatherings will be Hope LC Food Pantry and Charis Pregnancy Counseling.

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Prayer Chain

|| Life presents challenges to all of us, but sometimes ||

|| those challenges can feel like it’s just too much. ||

|| If you are experiencing situations, whether physical, ||

|| emotional, or spiritual, call our Prayer chain. ||

|| You may give your prayer requests to Angie ||

|| TerMaat at 608-246-9608, or the church office at ||

|| 608-222-7071 or call if you would ||

|| like to become a part of our Prayer chain. ||

|| **“Hear my prayer, O Lord; Listen to my cry for mercy.”** ||

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Steward Builders

A newsletter to help you grow as a steward.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share God's Word so that our members will better understand who we are to be and what we are to do in the light of the Scriptures. It is our hope that this monthly publication will help you grow in your relationship with the Lord and as a Christian steward.

Witnesses for Christ

The story is told of a young man who had been out of work for some time. Jobs were scarce, but he was at last offered a job for the summer in a logging camp up north. His parents and friends were somewhat concerned about the reaction of the rest of the crew when they found out the young man was a Christian. If the story-book image of a lumberjack was true, they were sure his life would be quite unbearable. Upon his return home in the fall, his mother immediately inquired as to what had taken place when the word got out that he was a Christian, to which he replied, "They didn't find out!"

Most of us don't find ourselves in logging camps, but do those around us, wherever we are, know we are Christians? Are they aware that we are God's children? Does what comes out of our mouths ever leave any doubt as to who is in control of our lives? Jesus said, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). We are His witnesses. The question is: What kind?

When Jesus' disciples were told to stop preaching the Good News, they said, *"For we cannot help speak about what we have seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20).

So how about us? God blessed us with minds and mouths to speak. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God will give us the words and the courage to use them (Matthew 10:19). Let us be aware of the opportunities He places before us and make sure that the whole world hears the Good News. Ask God to make you a joy-filled witness of His love and forgiveness for all people.



On the Lighter Side

One Sunday in church a little boy took off his tie and put it into the offering plate.

"What are you doing?" asked the mother.

"What the minister said," answered the little boy. "He told us to give our ties and offerings."

Is Gold Where You Find It?

Years ago, a prospector came upon an abandoned gold mine. With a lantern and a pickaxe, he began to search the mine for one last vein which others might have overlooked.

Years later a part of engineers explored that abandoned mine. In the deepest shaft they came upon a little pile of rock and beside it a rusted pick. Farther along the shaft lay a battered lantern, and still farther, a human skeleton, its bony hand clutching one nugget of gold. The prospector had found his treasure, but lost his way.

Beware of seeking too long and too hard for that which has no value at all if a man loses his way.

Henry B. Luffberry

Poor Without Poverty

It sometimes happens that a godly woman without financial rank in the town contributes more to the actual spiritual power of the congregation than some person of wealth whose life is undedicated, but whose money is liberally bestowed.

“She is the penniless power house of our church,” said a certain pastor in speaking of a woman who was rendering an amazing service among the youth of the congregation. In the course of ten years

perhaps a hundred youngsters had been utterly transformed through the radiance of her personal life, yet she has never been able to give more than a couple of dollars a week to the financial support of the church. (Roy L. Smith)

God’s Ownership

If we are to be followers of Jesus, we must transfer ownership of our possessions to Him. *“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be My disciple”* (Luke 14:33). Sometimes He tests us to give up what we value the most.

God put Abraham to the test instructing him, *“Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you”* (Genesis 22:2). Abraham obeyed by demonstrating his willingness to give up his most valuable possession. God saw his obedience and faithfulness and told Abraham not to lay a hand on his son.

Acknowledging God’s ownership, we no longer think in the terms of “my” money or even my spouse or my child. Instead, the question becomes “What does God want me to do with gifts He’s given me?” We want to please God with all that He entrusts to us.

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!

CHURCH WHO ARE MILITARY VETERANS

(Please let us know if we missed anyone. Thanks.)

Donald Hamburg	1966-1968		Army
Eugene Kosbau	1954-1957		Navy
Daniel Lindert	1989-present	Iraq	Army
Marcel Lindert	1965-2001	Cold War	WI Army NG
Marcel Lindert	2001-2005		Army Reserves
Durwood Meyer	1957-1961		USAF
Larry TerMaat	1965-1969	Vietnam	Marines
Larry TerMaat	1977-1997		Air Natl Guard

Memorial Day Tribute

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."

– President Harry S. Truman

Former members now deceased who served our Country:

Bill Boyer	Barney Prescott
Butch Butler	John Rosenau
Clem Dohmeier	John Russell
Robert Ganiere	Ed Rustic
Al Genske	Dean Sailing
Ewald Koch	Roger Schlender
Dr. Gordon Lofgren	Carl TerMaat
Renata Lucht	Bill Wiessinger
Ed Neese	Rubin Wolff

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of the *Memorial Day Holiday*. Have safe travels and enjoy the three day weekend.

Congregations Working Together (CWT)

There will be a meeting with St. Paul, Immanuel, Our Savior and Monona on Sunday, May 12th here at Monona. The meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. Plan now to attend.

Geraniums for Pentecost: We are, once again, planning to plant geraniums by the outside walkway to the church. Please fill out an order form which can be found on the tables in the Narthex and Welcoming Area. Payment should be made out to Monona Lutheran church, marked for Geraniums, and placed in the offering plate, mailed in or left on the desk in the office. The geraniums will cost \$6.00 and orders need to be in no later than May 6th. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Ann Rubin

Please share: Please feel free to share the Portal's of Prayer or any of the devotions we have with others. You are welcome to take them and leave them at the doctors, dentists, or at any appointments you may have. You never know when it will be just the thing someone needs that day

Welcome Our Visitors

Do you remember what it felt like to be a newcomer in the church? It can feel as if you're almost invisible, surrounded by a flock of people who all seek to know each other-people who have things to talk about.

It can be a very lonely feeling, but it doesn't have to be. Not if you have someone who's willing to lead you through the crowd and introduce you to others.

Let us each welcome all persons we see in our worship service. May we welcome them as heartily as we are welcoming the spring and all of God's Creations.

Sunday School News

Our last day of Sunday school will be May 19th. We will have a special ice cream treat for the children during our lesson. We would like to thank teachers, students, parents and everyone who helped make this year a fun time. Sunday school will resume in the fall on September 8th. Enjoy your summer.



VOTERS' MEETING SUNDAY

MAY 19th, 2024

10:15 a.m.

Plan now to attend.

Ascension Day Service

w/Communion @ 6:00 pm

held at Immanuel Lutheran on

Thursday, May 9th

Ice cream social following.

This would be a great time for fellowship.



MONONA MESSENGER

Monona Ev. Lutheran Church, LC—MS
4411 Monona Dr.
Monona, WI 53716

Address Service Requested



Divine Worship

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Communion Services

1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

Midweek Lenten & Advent

Vespers 6:00 p.m.

Sunday Christian Education Hour

Sunday School 10:15 am Sept. - May

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Nowak

Office Phone: 608.222.7071

E-mail: mlc-ms@hotmail.com

Website: www.mononalutheran.org

Stewardship Thought

God Initiates and We Respond

The majesty of God's creation gives evidence to how awesome God is. He is the creator, the source, and the controller of all things. *"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein"* (Psalm 24:1). We are stewards of His creation because He has called and equipped us

to be His stewards. God initiates, and we respond. Our acts of serving and giving are responses to what God has already done for us especially through His Son, Jesus. We can love because God loved us first. We can serve but He serves us. We can give because He gives to us. God equips and empowers us to live as people who worship Him and carry out His work. May we become the stewards that God wants us to be.



Prayer: *Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the beautiful creation You've made for us. Help us to be faith stewards of Your creation. Grant us wisdom to know Your will and to be obedient to it. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Blessings on your journey as a steward!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"Loving Christ, Serving Others through Preaching, Teaching, Reaching"