



MONONA MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2024

In the Beginning, Again

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Sometimes it's good to get back to the basics. When the whirlwind of summer events and celebrations is over, it's time to gather our wits and prepare for the coming season. Time to get our bearings. Time to think afresh. Time to take stock of the past year — for some, remembering its blessings, for others, sorrowing over its setbacks.

Whether rejoicing or sorrowing, however, God is there with us. He laughs with us in our times of joy and wipes away our tears of sadness. He is always here. He was here "in the beginning. " He created it all. When "the earth was and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep... the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, 'Let there be... ' And there was... " (Genesis 1:2, 3).

All it takes is a word from God's mouth and there it is. He created it, He owns it, and He loans it to us for our use. In addition, all the time, He is there with us; never will He leave us (Hebrews 13:5). This is no time for regrets over the past, for God has forgiven and forgotten our sin. There is no cause for worry over what each day will bring, for God has already been there.

Each of us can make a new beginning; in fact, each day, each moment can be a new beginning. God promises to provide for all our needs. Paul wrote, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4: 19). Believing this promise, we do not need to fear for our futures, financial or otherwise. We do not need to store up wealth for some calamity. We can afford to be generous givers because, as believers, we are covered by God's promise to care for us.

By God's grace, let us make that new beginning, then, living according to God's plan for us and managing the vast resources He has loaned to us to the best of our abilities, honoring Him in all we say, in the way we live, and through our generous offerings as we work to make His name known. Most of all being generous with the Gospel to a world thirsting for life.

Rejoicing in His precious gift—Christ Crucified!

Pastor Nowak

Celebrations in October

Birthdays

Ellen Peck	2
Jennifer Thur	2
Steve Lindert	4
Susan Felton	5
Pat Lofgren	5
Linda Kosbau	6
Dr. Arnold Krubsack	6
Joyce Butler	7
Hannah Detlaff	8
Ryan Steingraber	9
Angie TerMaat	13
Phyllis Peterson	15
Joy Kummerow	16
Mike Simon	21
Gail Steingraber	21
Woodie Meyer	25
Wyatt Ampe	27
Marge Thur	29
Susie Bartlett	31
Colton MacLeod	31

Anniversary

Tom & Sue Neuser - 37 years; 10/31



Congratulations and God's Blessings

Mark732 Deaf Outreach: You are encouraged to support the Deaf ministry by putting a donation in one of the envelopes found on the table in the Welcoming Area.

November Messenger Deadline:

Monday, October 21st, 2024

No Late Articles

Please submit articles by this date. Email to:

mhc-ms@hotmail.com

OR leave a copy in the office.

Make a Joyful Noise

If you like to sing, we'd love to have you join us in the vocal choir! If you think you aren't musically inclined, then you can still have fun making music with the bell choir. No music background is needed! See Corey Smies (our organist).

Lutheran Women in Mission

Zone 16 Gathering

We'll be at Bethlehem, in Sun Prairie on Saturday, October 19th, 8:30 am open, 9:00 am program start. In addition to a short meeting, there will be a Bible Study led by Pastor Joel Brandt, Melody Rogers will represent the LWML Executive Committee, and our guest speaker will be from the Creation Science Society. Our in-gathering will benefit the Sun Prairie Food Pantry. Items to donate include personal care items such as: shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper, and/or non-perishable food items. A light luncheon will be served. If you are an LCMS woman, you are also an LWML "Woman in Mission." We hope you will join us.

LWML Celebration: A special worship service is planned for **Sunday, October 6th** to celebrate all that God has done through the LWML.

Monona's LWML group will be getting together again on **Thursday, October 10th** beginning at 9 am.

Please pick up your copy of the Mission Lamp to get the LWML news of the SWD! They're on the LWML table in the Welcoming Area.

Blessings on your day, *Ellen*

Partnership Monthly Event: Plan now to attend the next Partnership Game Night, **Tuesday, October 1st at Immanuel** with a meal beginning at 5:30 pm and games to follow. Please remember to sign up for this event in the Fellowship Hall so they can prepare accordingly.

The Sign Language Class: Please note that the sign language class will now be held at St. Paul on Wednesday evenings beginning at 7:00 pm.

Portals of Prayer: Please be sure to pick up the latest issue of *Portals of Prayer*. The devotions cover October, November, and December. Consider giving one to a friend or leaving one at the doctors or dentist's office.

PLEASE NOTE:

Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday

October 15th, 2024

6:30 p.m.

Flower Calendar

The 2024 flower calendar is on the wall in front of the office. Please sign up to celebrate a special occasion or just to beautify the church.

Thought for the week:

"Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil--it has no point".

Billy Graham

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.



Called to be Fishers of Men

When the brothers Simon Peter and Andrew were called by Jesus to be His disciples, they were casting their fishing net into the lake. Jesus told them, *"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men"* (Matthew 4:19). Peter and Andrew did not have to ask for time to consider Jesus' invitation. They knew Jesus as the Messiah, and they regarded Jesus' invitation as a special privilege, so they followed Him. Jesus would be instructing and training them to go out and speak to other people about Him. Andrew and Simon Peter had no special qualifications. It is unlikely that, as fishermen, they had any formal education. In the same way, we need no special degrees or qualifications to share the Gospel and become fishers of men.

As fishers of men, Peter and Andrew would follow Jesus' instruction and trust Him to bring about the results He had in mind. Their experiences as fishermen possibly helped them to be patient and persevering.

They exchanged their fishing nets for a new net that Jesus would provide, which we could call the means of grace, the Gospel of Christ in Word and Sacrament. This is the only power that can bring sinners into Christ's kingdom.

When Jesus told His disciples that they would be fishers of men, He shared with them His mission and purpose. Jesus is about saving souls. We are called to that same mission. We plant the seeds and do a little watering, and Jesus provides the growth. Like Peter and Andrew, we become fishers of men.

Making Contacts for Jesus

Do your neighbors and co-workers know you are Christian? How about the person who sells you your coffee or the person who delivers your mail? Are you attempting to develop a relationship with these people so you can share the Good News of the Gospel with them? Scripture tells us that we have the responsibility and purpose to tell others about Jesus. We can give no greater service to Jesus than to be part of rescuing lost souls by sharing the life-saving Gospel. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 28:19). God wants



“all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). We are to be Jesus’ hands, feet, and mouth. Jesus tells us *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest”* (Luke 10:2). We are the laborers whom Jesus is seeking.

For many, sharing the Gospel is uncomfortable. But do people need Jesus more than we need to be comfortable? God has placed us among many people who do not know Jesus. With God’s help, we can become very intentional with our witnessing. He can open our eyes to opportunities and give us the words to speak. We may want to consider developing a list of people who do not have a relationship with Jesus. The people could be in your inner circle of family and friends and in your outer circle of relationships. We can be empowered to witness because the Holy Spirit will guide and direct us.

Let your light shine.

The Bible says, *“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in Heaven”* (Matthew 5:16). The question we have to ask is, “How clearly and how brightly are we reflecting Christ in our lives?” There are lots of things that diminish our reflections. Willful disobedience to God’s will, unconfessed sin in our lives, grudges and anger, grief, and guilt diminish and tarnish our reflections. God designed us to be reflections of Him, and what is happening in our lives, in our hearts, in our minds, and in our actions affects the brightness of the reflections.

God wants us to be His light, so others will be drawn not to us, but to Jesus, the *“light of the world”* (John 8:12). The depth of our own relationships with God matters a lot when it comes to letting His light shine!



We busy ourselves with a lot of activities, things that are important to us, and rightly so. We are going to be investing our time and energy in many things, yet each of us needs to ask, “How much am I investing in the lives of others?”

Do you know someone who is struggling in his faith or has no relationship at all with Jesus? One of the most valuable things you can do is to strengthen your relationship with Christ and strengthen your relationship with that person. Ask God to give you a heart of compassion for that person and to help you be a reflection of Jesus that can turn him toward Jesus.

Of all the things we could invest ourselves in, of all the things we could exchange our time or energy for, there is nothing more valuable than investing in people to help them know Jesus Christ. It’s an investment that lasts forever.

Giving Quotes:

- “I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all. But whatever I placed in God’s hands, that I still possess” (Martin Luther).
- “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” (Jim Elliot).
- “Giving dethrones me and exalts God” (Randy Alcorn).

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!

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 or call the church office at 608-222-7071 or if you would like to become a part of our Prayer chain.

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

Partnership Events in October

Tuesday, October 1 – Game Night & Meal 5:30 pm – Immanuel
Saturday, October 5 – Teamwork Workshop 9 am – Immanuel
Sunday, October 13 – Partnership Council 1:30 pm – St. Paul
Sunday, October 20 – Reformation Service 3 pm – Immanuel plus Potluck 4 pm



Sunday, October 27 – Survey Roundtable – St. Paul
Thursday, October 31 – Trunk or Treat 5 pm – Immanuel

Volunteers Wanted: The time has come to put together the volunteer schedule for January through June 2025. Thank you to those who have faithfully volunteered in the past. However, we could use a few more people to volunteer to be put on the schedule as an usher, reader, assist with communion or helping on the altar guild.

The more people we have, the less times you will be put on the schedule. Please consider volunteering. There is a sign-up sheet in the Welcoming Area or call the church office (222-7071) with any questions anytime between 8 am and 1 pm; Monday, Wednesday or Thursday. Thanks.



Anneliese

Monona Evangelical Lutheran Church 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. For further information about the Endowment Fund, please see the brochures available on the table in the Fellowship Hall or talk to Mike Simon, Dave Krivanek, or Woodie Meyer. Your gift to the Endowment Fund will become a gift that keeps giving.

St Stephen's Food Pantry: Please remember about the little red wagon in the Welcoming Area for St. Stephen's Food Pantry. There is always a need for food pantry items, any time of the year. Donations of food, personal items, paper products, baby food and diapers are all gratefully received. Next time you're out shopping add a couple of things to your cart for the pantry. Thanks, too, to Woody Meyer for faithfully taking the items to the food pantry.

Hospitalized? If you or your family member have been hospitalized and would like to hear from the Pastor, please contact the church office at 222-7071 or call Pastor at 284-9018 or his cell number – 1-516-477-1770. Make sure you also direct the hospital to be put on the clergy list. We do not always receive a call when someone has been hospitalized.

Any Changes??

Please let the church office know of any changes you may have in your phone number/s; email address/s; change of household dynamics; changed your name; or any information we need for the church directory. We would like to put out an updated directory by the end of the year.

Loving and Losing:

We continue meeting on the second Monday of each month with a Bible study at 10:00 am for those that have lost a loved one—especially widows and widowers. Our October meeting will be on Monday the 14th led by Pastor Nowak. Through the timeless lens of Scripture, we will find comfort and hope as we focus on relevant issues.

Thank you from the Ronald McDonald House for the pull tabs you save for them. Your efforts make it possible for us to continue to operate our "home away from home" for families with children receiving treatment at local medical facilities.

RMHC collects pull tabs for two reasons:

- 1. Pull tabs have significant value in the recycling industry as they represent the purest form of aluminum.
2. RMHC does not have the storage space to collect cans.

Keep saving your pull tabs – every little bit counts.

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

Obedience Is the Result of Faith

Just as the Holy Spirit enables us to believe, so He enables us to be obedient. True faith results in obedience. *“And without faith it is impossible to please [God], for whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him,”* we read in Hebrews 11:6. It is by faith that we are enabled to be obedient to God’s will. Obedience is the mark of Christian faith. This is what stewardship is – the expression of our faith through obedience to God’s command to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the prisoner (Matthew 25:35-36).



Prayer: *Oh, Lord, how gracious You are to us. Thank You for the gift of faith. Help us to use our faith in ways that honor and glorify You and serve our neighbors. Through Christ, I pray. Amen.*

Blessings on your journey as a steward!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“Loving Christ, Serving Others through Preaching, Teaching, Reaching”