



MONONA MESSENGER

AUGUST 2024

+ He Sent His Son +

'[We] were dead in the trespasses and sins in which [we] once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air ...and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind" (Ephesians 2:1-3). We were in trouble! And there was not a thing we could do to extricate ourselves from the pit we were in, " "but God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loves us, even when we were dead in our trespasses " (Ephesians 2:4-5), sent His Son.

He didn't wait until we straightened ourselves out; He doesn't want us to be weighed down with the burdens of our sins. No, He invites us to cast all our "anxieties on Him, because He cares for [us]" (1 Peter 5:7). He sees our weak condition and promises that He will not break the bruised reed nor will He quench the faintly burning wick (Isaiah 42:3).

God "sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10). Jesus came while we were weak and sinful, while we were dead. He perfectly satisfied the demands of the law on our behalf. God sent His Son to live the perfect life in our place and to reconcile us to our Father through His death on the Cross. Through Christ we have been made alive; we have been saved by grace (Ephesians 2:5).

All because of God's great love for us! Martin Luther, in his explanation of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, the article dealing with our redemption, stresses our helplessness and Christ's sacrifice — that our Savior shed His "holy, precious blood" — and then he talks about our response: "that [we] may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness."

We are saved for eternity, and we are saved to do good in this life. We are saved to 'serve Him.' "We are saved so that we might tell others of the hopeless situation we were in apart from Christ. We are saved so that we might point others to the Savior. We are saved so that we might minister to others just as Christ ministered when He walked this earth — touching, teaching, loving, and speaking the truth in love. We are now finishing the summer season. In your conversations with neighbors and acquaintances, make mention of the many opportunities the Lord freely blesses us with. Many have never heard of any of this before. These upcoming fall days offer great opportunity to reengage with the church, educate and inspire, to plant seeds and water them, to live actively under Jesus in His kingdom and to serve Him by serving others.

Working the harvest with you!

Pastor Nowak

Celebrations

Birthdays in August

Tom Neuser	2 nd
Sharon Knapp	3 rd
Tami Noll	4 th
Steve Neuser	5 th
Stacy Kummerow	10 th
Tyre Ampe	24 th
Steve Peck	25 th
Karen Bartlett	26 th
Elliot King	29 th



Anniversaries in August

Dr. Arnold & Judie Krubsack—62 years, 25th



Congratulations & God's Blessings

Blood Drive: July 11th, MGHS Hosa Club held a Blood Drive at MELC. I am pleased to say we had three great HS students help with the drive. I felt it was important to be at the church as it was a great opportunity to show the community who we are. I had three separate encounters with people when I greeted them and answered questions about the blood drive and our church. Thank you Brooke for a job well done! Our next drive will be on September 23 at MLC from 1-6pm. Hope to see you there. Questions, please contact *Ann Rubin*

Monona Evangelical Lutheran Church Endowment Fund

An endowment fund invests money to fund charitable activities. Monona Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund supports things like congregational programs, church worker scholarships, local ministries, church facilities and expansion, etc. The Endowment Fund does so by using the 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. Consider an Endowment Fund donation; it will become a gift that keeps on giving.

Fall Get Together: Zone 16 LWML will be having their Fall Get Together on Saturday, October 23rd at St. John's in Portage. Save the date and plan to attend – more particulars will be coming.

Corn Roast & Pot Luck



Potluck Lunch—Monona Ev. and Our Savior Deaf Lutheran will co-host a potluck lunch at Monona with our Partnering congregations: Immanuel Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran. It will be a great opportunity to socialize with the members of these churches. OSDL is planning to grill sweet corn, and the rest of the menu will be potluck. Plates, utensils, condiments and beverages will be provided. So add this event to your calendar for **11:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 18th.**

VOTERS' MEETING SUNDAY

AUGUST 25th, 2024 - 10:15 a.m.



LWML-SWD

Plan now to attend the **Fall Retreat** on Friday, September 27th and Saturday the 28th at the Radisson Hotel & Conference Center in Fond du Lac. The theme this year is "**Treasured**" – "*The Lord has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession. Deuteronomy 14:2*". The retreat speaker will be Deb Burma comparing our faith lives to the formation of diamonds. The main servant event is lap blankets for Lutheran Home Residents in Liturgical colors. The Gifts from the Heart will benefit the Hope LC Food Pantry and Charis Pregnancy Counseling service. Items to be brought can be found on the Registration Form which is available on the LWML-SWD web page or in the Welcoming Area. The deadline for reservations is Friday, September 13th, 2024.

THINK ABOUT IT

Without God our week would be:

SinDay
MournDay
TearsDay
WasteDay
ThirstDay
FightDay
ShatterDay

7 days without God makes one weak.

Sunday School: We are starting to organize for the start of our Sunday School in the fall. Rally Day is September 8th with fellowship at 8:00 am. Our Sunday School is open to all 4K children through 8th grade. Thank you to the Sunday School teachers and parents for all you have done and plan to do. We can always use more volunteers. Please contact Judy Thompson or Ann Rubin if you are interested. Please keep us in your prayers the rest of the summer for a successful start in the fall. – *Judy Thompson*

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.

Giving God our Best

To be Christian implies that we act as Christians. Being a Christian is not a part-time position. Scripture is clear that God expects and deserves our best. *"And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God"* (Colossians 1:10). God wants us to be productive people in His kingdom. When we commit our lives and resources to His service, we will hear Him say, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:23).

The Apostle Paul wrote, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). God wants people *"eager to do what is good"* (Titus 2:14). God does not appreciate laziness, idleness, or fruitlessness. God calls us to bear fruit (John 15:16), to serve (Isaiah 58:10), to give (Matthew 10:8), to love (Matthew 22:37-38), to witness (Acts 1:8), and to obey (John 14:23). God seeks people through whom He can work. Through our lips, He tells others of His life-saving Gospel; through our hands and feet, He brings love and care

to the needy; and through our minds, hearts, and checkbooks, He financially supports the work of the Church. It is God Who strengthens us (Philippians 4:13). However, if we choose not to surrender our lives to Jesus, we become less productive for Him.



As Christians, we are called into ministry. Through faith, we become more than just spectators. We are God's representatives who are called to serve. Just as Jesus ministered to the people of His time, we are to do the same today. *"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you"* (John 13:15). Our ministries take place in our homes, in our neighborhoods, in our churches, and in our places of work. Reaching out to the lost is at the very heart of our ministry. We have in Christ the saving truth of the Gospel that all people need to hear.

The standard set for us in God's Word is high:

- God tells us not to be conformed to the patterns of the world but to be transformed (Romans 12:2).

Partnership News

July 2024

Immanuel Lutheran Church
St Paul Lutheran Church
Monona Lutheran Church
Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church

Pastor Michael Erdman
Pastor Grant Sorenson
Pastor Thomas Nowak

Partnership Game Night, next on August 6th @5:30pm at St Paul

Pastor Michael Erdman

Please consider joining us for our next partnership Game Night at St Paul. We plan on doing one the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 5:30pm with a meal. After the food, we will have a variety of games available, including cards, party games, and activities for kids. There will not be a worship service or bible study. Socializing is the goal. We hope that every one of all ages and stages of life will join us each month.

Corn Roast and Potluck at Monona, August 18th @11:30pm

Pastor Tom Nowak

Come and join us on August 18th for a Corn Roast and Potluck, along with great fellowship and friends.

It all starts at Monona with a wonderful Corn Roast at 11:30am.

What an opportunity to strengthen each other in fellowship with the four churches of our partnership.

Please see and sign the sign up sheet at your home congregation so we will properly prepare. Bring a friend if you wish. (If you forget to sign up, you are still welcome to come. We will have plenty of food!)

We look forward to great weather and a time to mingle among those gathered to increase and strengthen our growth together. Until then!

Partnership Update

Pastor Michael Erdman

Back on June 9th, we officially started the next phase of our partnership together when all the churches passed the partnership launch resolution. A great deal has been happening behind the scenes since then.

The new Provisional Partnership Council has now met twice, and we have put the next steps of the plan into motion. (Reminder: You are all welcome to join us for the next meeting on August 11th @1:30pm at Monona.)

First, we have formally requested and received financial support for hiring Larry Ulrich of Generis from the South Wisconsin District Micro-Grant program.

Second, we have signed a contract with Generis and begun working with Larry Ulrich. Starting July 2nd, the pastors of our partnership have been meeting with Larry Ulrich weekly via Zoom. For the first few months, Larry will be focusing on teaching the pastors, pushing us to grow and encouraging us to become a better team with a unified purpose and vision. Larry promised to push us out of our comfort zones and confront us with difficult truths and decisions. He is already keeping that promise, which is essential to finding our path forward. (During this initial phase, Jeff Thur and Bess MacLeod from Monona will be following along watching the recordings of these zoom meetings.)

The next phase will be to begin the Why Discovery process with the members of all of our congregations, starting this fall. This will help us find a common purpose and vision for the partnership.

Originally, we were planning on doing this Why Discovery process with Nathan Meador. However things changed on June 10th when President John Wille died. While 1st Vice President Eric Skovgaard has stepped up to fill in the role of President, many of the responsibilities now also rest with Nathan Meador, the only other pastor on the district staff. As such, Nathan Meador may not have time to work with us on our timetable.

That said, we will definitely be doing some form of the Why Discovery process this fall, we just need to work out the details. Who exactly will be doing it has not yet been nailed down yet, but we have some good ideas. We will let you know when we have more information.

**Monona Lutheran Church
Voters' Meeting---Minutes
May 19, 2024**

Gary Steingraber called the meeting to order at 10:25 am.

Pastor led us in an opening prayer.

Pastor's Report: He continues to keep in touch with sick, shut-ins and members with health problems. The sign language classes for June, July and August will be held only on Tuesdays at 5 pm and 6:30 pm. There will be no classes on Thursdays. The Loving and Losing group is going well. The four Churches Working Together are planning more fellowship time. Game night has been set for the first Tuesday of each month starting at 5:30 pm. The first game night will be June 4 at St. Paul Lutheran and sign language will be part of that time. The four churches are still seeking a name for this partnership. This partnership will need a leadership board that consists of 2 lay delegates from each church.

New Voting Members: There are none.

Out Going Members: A motion to release Neil and Susan Bartlett to St. Paul Lutheran was made, seconded and carried.

Voters' Minutes: A motion to approve the February 2024 minutes was made, seconded and carried.

Team Reports: There were no Team Reports.

Treasurer's Report: Report in packet. As of 4/30/24 the checking account balance was \$79,427.68. A motion to place the report on file was made, seconded and carried.

Reception of New Members: There were no new members.

Old Business

- A. Endowment Fund status as of 3/31/24: \$211,471 is invested; \$5377 is available for projects and \$600 received in contributions in 2024. There were no questions.
- B. Rental Unit Status:---all rented
- C. Churches Working Together---(Bess and Jeff)---in Pastor's report

New Business

- A. Financial Review Committee: John McNeil, Wayne Kosbau, and Woody Meyer met with Edie and Ellen. The review is complete and everything is in order.
- B. Proposal #1 Work Together---proposal in packet. There was discussion in regards to the spending of \$500 by the Provisional Partnership Council. There was a motion to accept this proposal. The motion was seconded and carried with provision that there be clarification of spending the \$500. Would the \$500 be a onetime spending or multiple times and is this divided between the 4 churches. Bess McLeod and Jeff Thur were nominated to be delegates to the Partnership Council. A motion for the nominations was made, seconded and carried.
- C. Proposal #2 Fire Alarm---proposal in packet Steve Peck stated that three estimates were given for the fire alarm replacement. J & K Security was chosen for this project at a cost of \$18,400. The new system will be completed the last week in May. A motion was made, seconded and passed to amend the proposal to withdraw money from the Edith Brown Fund to pay for this update. A motion to pay for the alarm was made, seconded and carried.

Announcements

- A. Game Night @ St. Paul: June 4, 5:30 pm
- B. Picnic/Corn Roast: Aug. 18, 11:30 am
- C. Next Voters' Mtg.: Aug. 25, 10:15 am

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and carried.

Dr. Krubsack led us in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Ann Hamburg

MONONA MESSENGER

Monona Ev. Lutheran Church, LC—MS

4411 Monona Dr.

Monona, WI 53716

Address Service Requested



2024

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

We Are Christ's Ambassadors

In Paul's second letter to the believers in Corinth, He writes, God "*gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He committed to us the message of reconciliation*"

(2 Corinthians 5:18-19). God could have used His angels or some other means, but instead, He gave the ministry and the message of reconciliation to us. "*We are therefore,*" Paul continues, "*Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God*" (verse 20).

Prayer: *Dear Heavenly Father, You are my rock and strength. Through You, I receive all that I need for this life and life eternal through Your Son. Place in me a passion to share Your love with others. Help me to tell others about Your amazing love. In Jesus' name, I pray.*

Blessings on your stewardship journey!



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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