



# **MONONA MESSENGER**

## **NOVEMBER 2024**

### **+ Give Thanks +**

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me " (Galatians 2:20)

Only as we live in Christ can we fulfill the will of God in our lives. His love sustains us in good times and in bad. Today we may find much for which to thank Him. Tomorrow we may cry with Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him" (Job 13:15). The assurance of His past love comforts us in our trials and gives us hope for a future. Even though satan, the deceiver, accuses us, the promise of the forgiveness of sins through the blood of Jesus strengthens us.

With thankfulness in our hearts we exclaim with Paul, "If God is for us, who can be against us? Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:31, 35, 37).

For what are you thankful today? During this Thanksgiving season are we remembering God's many gifts? Your family, your friends, your home, your work? Rightfully so. What about the gifts and talents and financial resources God has given you? Do you thank Him for giving you not only the gifts, but the privilege of serving Him? The Creator of the universe, the Savior of the world, the Sanctifier of our souls has counted us mortal, fallible humans worthy of carrying His message of reconciliation to the world. For this purpose, we remain on earth. For this purpose, God calls us, equips us, empowers us, and fulfills His will in and through us. For this life of meaning God has given you, give thanks.

As you finish your feast this Thanksgiving with family and friends—remember and give thanks. As you finish your main meal and look forward to those delicious deserts remember your fork. Why because the best is yet to come. We pause and remember this Thanksgiving to also remember the other delicious desert waiting for us. Jesus put it like this, "No eye has seen, no mind has conceived, no ear has heard what God has prepared for those who love Him." What a feast that will be with family and friends gathered around the table with Jesus as both host and guest. (LSB 676).

Yours in the comfort of Christ,  
*Pastor Nowak*

Lutheran Women in Mission

**Celebrations in November**

*Birthdays*

Jacob Simmons	2
Jeff Thur	10
Sue Fietzer	15
Evelyn Culles	17
Joshua Simmons	20
Brad Dowse	25
Mary Jo VonRuden	25



*Anniversary*

Wayne & Linda Kosbau -  
55 years; November 29<sup>th</sup>

***Congratulations & 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.

***Thanksgiving Eve Partnership  
Service w/Communion at Monona  
Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 p.m.***

*Please join us for a worship service with St. Paul, Immanuel and Our Savior.*



**LWML:**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 at Steingraber's house. Our Bible study will be from the LWML fall quarterly, pages 18 & 19 - ***The Lord, My Helper, Keeps Me.*** We will then work on assembling layettes. *Ellen*

**Upcoming Events**

***2025 LWML SWD Winter Getaway***

January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

**Location:** Wintergreen Hotel and Conference Center

**Guest Speaker:** *Rev. Michael Salemink – Executive Director of Lutherans for Life*

***LWML 2025 Convention***

June 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Theme:** Growing in God's Grace

**Location:** Omaha, Nebraska

More information can be found on the LWML-SWD website.

**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. We will meet again on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Nowak leading the group.

**PRESENT MEMBERS OF MONONA 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	1989-2018	Iraq	Army
Marcel Lindert	1965-2001	Cold War	WI Army NG
Marcel Lindert	2001-2005		Army Res.
Durwood Meyer	1957-1961		USAF
Larry TerMaat	1965-1969	Vietnam	Marines
Larry TerMaat	1977-1997		Air NG

**REMEMBER November 11<sup>th</sup> – VETERAN'S DAY**

We are proud of the veterans in our congregation who have served our country and on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> they will be recognized. We thank the Lord for their services. If anyone has been left off of this list, please let the church office know.

***Don't Forget!!***

Daylight Savings Time ends on Saturday night, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. ***Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed.***



# *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.

## **Under Authority**

Robert Wilder, founder of the Student Volunteer Movement, sat one day in a hotel in Poona, India. A naval officer with whom he was talking finally said, "Why don't you missionaries stay at home and mind your own business?"

At the time, the British fleet had been ordered to Constantinople because of the serious Armenian massacres. Wilder faced the officer and said: "Suppose you were ordered to take your battleships to Constantinople tomorrow, and I would say, 'Why don't you stay here and mind your business? There is no sense in your going to the Bosphorus.'"

The officer, his dark eyes flashing, returned, "I would tell you to mind your business. When we are ordered to go, we must go, even if every ship is sunk and every sailor killed."

Wilder then rejoined: "You are right. I also have marching orders, not from any human government, but from the divine government. My command is to preach the Gospel to every living creature. India has one-fifth of the world's population, and the primary question is not what the cost is but whether I

am going to obey the command of my Savior and Lord."

The Christian steward's marching orders are, *The Entire World*; and, at whatever cost of time, money, prayer, life, Christians must carry on until the whole world has heard the glad story of redemption. (Basil Miller)



## **On the Lighter Side**

People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Reverend," said the young man. "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It is the same in my business."

A lady was mailing an old family Bible to her brother. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

## **We Are Lights in a Dark World**

We are new creations in Christ, the Apostle Paul declares (2 Corinthians 5:17)! As such, we no longer view ourselves or others the way we once did. We have a new role; we are ambassadors for Christ, *“as though God were making His appeal through us”* (2 Corinthians 5:20). And those to whom He appeals are the lost for whom Christ has died. What a sober responsibility we have! As stewards of the Gospel that we spread not just with our mouths, but with our actions as well, let us implore God to enable us to be His light in this dark world.



## **I Never Pledge**

“I never sign a pledge of any kind,” said a man whom I was soliciting.

“Are you sure?” I asked.

“Yes,” he replied.

“Do you own your home?” I questioned.

“Yes, but it is mortgaged for half its value.”

“Did you promise to pay interest on your mortgage?”

“Yes.”

“When your telephone was installed, did agree to pay monthly charges?”

“Yes. What are you driving at?”

“As a matter of fact,” I answered, “have you not committed the larger portion of your income to everything your home needs except the church?”

I surrender,” he said. (Robert Cashman)

## **Choosing Our Path**

God wants us to follow Him, yet He gives us the freedom to choose what path we will take and whom we will serve. As we stand at the crossroads of life, God continually reaches out to us through His Word. In Jeremiah 6:16 we read, *“This is what the Lord says: ‘Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.’”* Daily we are at the crossroads of life. The choice we make is our own. As Yogi Berra said, “When you get to a fork in the road, take it.” The road we take will have eternal consequences. Will we choose God’s way or the ways of the world? With God’s help, our answer can be like Joshua’s. *“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord”* (Joshua 24:15).

Joshua’s choice was that he and his family would be servants and stewards of the Lord. When you reach the crossroads in life, you will hear God’s call, “Follow Me.” The call to serve yourself and the ways of the world will be loud and boisterous. If you do not reject God’s call and you follow, as Jeremiah did, the ancient paths, you will turn away from your self-interests and focus on ways to serve the Lord. Your lifestyle will reflect your relationship with Him. As followers of Jesus, we acknowledge God’s ownership and love. We become stewards of what He entrusts to us. As followers of the Lord, we see others as brothers and sisters in Christ. We live with an eternal perspective.

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 November**

- November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Survey Roundtable @ Monona: 12:30 pm
- November 9<sup>th</sup>: Partnership Council @ Monona: 10:00 am
- November 10<sup>th</sup>: Survey Roundtable @ Immanuel: 2:00 pm
- November 17<sup>th</sup>: Vision Meeting @ Immanuel: 1 – 5 pm
- November 27<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Eve Service w/Communion @ Monona: 6:00 pm

Plan now to attend one or all of these events to be better informed.

**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.

**Sign Language Class:** Class meets every Wednesday at St. Paul beginning at 7 p.m. New and returning students are always welcomed to the class.

**REMEMBER  
VOTERS' MEETING  
SUNDAY  
NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
10:15 am**

**Blood Drives:**

Thank you so much for helping fulfill our mission of saving lives this fall through our blood drive. The drive exceeded our expectations. Our goal was 32 pints and we exceeded this goal with 44 successful donations. Thank you to all the people who participated from our church as well as our partnership churches. It was fun to see those familiar faces. The need for blood donations is ongoing.

We will have another drive at Monona Lutheran Church with Lake Edge United Church of Christ helping us again. It will be on Thursday, January 9, 2025. Thank you again for your generosity, time and effort. You are greatly appreciated. As a thank you, please check your email in a couple of weeks from the American Red Cross for your gift card. If you have any questions or want to make an appointment for the next drive, please contact Ann Rubin at Monona Lutheran Church.

**SWD Teacher of the Year Award**

Each year, the South Wisconsin District selects an outstanding educator for the Teacher of the Year award in the following categories:

- early childhood teacher (infant - 3 yr olds)
- early childhood teacher (4K-3rd Grade)
- elementary teacher (4th-8th Grade)
- high school teacher
- early childhood director principal

To nominate an educator who has at least two years of teaching experience and is currently teaching full-time in one of our LCMS schools in the SWD, go to [swd.lcms.org/TOTY](http://swd.lcms.org/TOTY). Nominations are open through November 15.

Serving Him together,  
**Robin Mueller**  
*Administrative Assistant  
Schools, Youth and Family Ministry  
South Wisconsin District-LCMS*

*HOW DO PEOPLE  
START ATTENDING  
CHURCH?  
A Friend Invited Me - 86%  
Organized Visitation - 6%  
Invited by the Pastor - 6%*

MONONA MESSENGER  
Monona Ev. Lutheran Church, LC—MS  
4411 Monona Dr.  
Monona, WI 53716  
Address Service Requested



# NOVEMBER 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

### Doing Good Works

*“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). With the same strength and power that God used to create the world and all people, He transforms us into people who are eager to serve and obey Him by doing good works. In Christ, we are new people who are *“eager to do what is good”* (Titus 2:14). As new creations, we are compelled, by God’s love and changed hearts, to do the works that He has prepared in advance for us to do. Our good works give glory to God rather than ourselves. As Christians, we are privileged to be *“a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the Master of the house, ready for every good work”* (2 Timothy 2:21).

**Prayer:** *Dear heavenly Father, I give You praise and thanks for Your unconditional love. Thank You for choosing me to be Your steward. Grant me faith to do the good works You have prepared for me to do. In Your precious name I pray. Amen.*

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**



### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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