

From your pastor...



Our Savior's ascension highlights our next topic in this series on "Our Use of God's Gift of Time."

Jesus left earth and returned home to heaven. Work done! Mission accomplished! Of course, He's not up in heaven retired and resting, but ruling and reigning for the sake of His people. And He is preparing our eternal home with Him!

In the meantime, He leaves us behind on earth with work to do, with a mission to carry out. In fact, our mission and ministry is parallel to our Lord's (except for the suffering and dying part, of course!).

So as Jesus spent time seeking the lost, so will we.

As our Lord spent time in prayer, we will make prayer a priority in our lives.

As our Savior spent time teaching and leading, we endeavor to make time for such activities not only at church, but even more importantly in our homes.

As Jesus took time to help and heal the hurting and afflicted, we will pour our energy into caring for those around us who need our love.

As His redeemed, we will reflect our ascended Lamb's use of God's gift of time in the areas of life that really matter ... eternally!

(Second in a series on "Our Use of God's Gift of Time")

~ Pastor J. Bare

**Church Council News:
Our financial report – as of March 2018**

	Month	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	\$48,793.42	\$146,380.26
Offerings	\$55,454.01	\$128,265.75
Tuition/FEF/ Reg	\$ 1,262.49	\$ 6,161.26
Other	\$ 102.72	\$ 225.12
Total Receipts	\$56,819.72	\$134,652.13
Actual Expenses	\$55,399.40	\$144,766.75
Difference	\$ 1,420.32	-\$ 24,447.63

Owed to Internal Line of Credit: \$45,000

Seventh and eighth graders will begin ushering duties on May 6th.

The older classrooms at school are being spruced up. The ladies will be coming in to do a spring cleaning in the kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Kobe

Our 2018 LOVE offering

This year our recipients are Calvary Academy, Flint Pregnancy Care Center, and the Central African Medical Mission. Please remember that we will be gathering this LOVE offering throughout the year, culminating in a door offering at our Thanksgiving Service.

President's Status Report concerning January 28th Open Forum (written on 4/18/18)

I would like to take a few minutes and provide an update as to what has taken place since the Open Forum on January 26, 2018.

- Weekly offerings continue to be up since the Open Forum meeting. We are a few weeks beyond the Easter Season and offerings are still good. As many of you are aware, due to inclement weather this past weekend (April 15), our Sunday morning services were cancelled. Our expenses continue to come in whether we have our regularly scheduled services or not, so please take this into consideration with future offerings to help make up for this.
- The upcoming spring and summer month's offerings need to at least remain at their current level for our plan moving forward to be reasonable, so please plan ahead with your offerings if possible.
- We are continuing to look into electronic payments methods that will help assist those that are absent from a service to be able to easily submit their offerings.
- Council will continue to monitor our financial situation and updates will be provided in the weekly bulletins.
- The Quarterly Voters' Meeting is Tuesday (4/24/2018) at 7:00 pm, I look forward to a good turnout for the meeting. The Elders' and Pastor will be going over the request for a pastor from the Assignment Committee, the School will be requesting approval on some textbook/curriculum upgrades, and we will be having our annual election of officers and

board/committee members. We have had some difficulty in filling the nominations for some of these positions and encourage the men of our congregation to volunteer for these important assignments.

- Some additional things to look forward to are that the Deacons/Usher Staff will be looking at inviting our 7th and 8th grade students and ladies to participate....stay tuned for further announcements. Also, there are some volunteers that are completing some cosmetic improvements in several of our rooms at the school...sprucing it up and re-purposing some of our empty space.

As we have previously said, if you have any ideas, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact anyone of us and we will try to address it as best we can.

Thank you,

Rick Freeman



Our Elders are preparing and serving a meal for the Sisters Serving Christ ladies on May 8th at 6:30pm. This is their way of saying thank you for all the work the ladies do. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table for ladies to RSVP so the gentlemen have an idea how many to prepare for.

Our Ascension Service is May 10th at 7pm.

Our Choir will be having their finale during the services on Sunday, May 13th. We thank Mrs. Carol Janetzke for her

hours of service both with choir and handbells as well as playing the organ each week. We also thank all the choir members for their work in helping enhance our church services.



**Michigan
Lutheran
Seminary**

Michigan Lutheran Seminary is again offering matching funds for students. The way this program works

is that churches are able to donate up to \$500 per member who is attending MLS and the school will match 25% (\$125). We have two Salem members who will be attending MLS next year – Sean McClosky and Elijah Zelenka. **We will be having a door offing on May 13th** to use as our church's donation help support them in their Christian education.

Pill Bottles for Missions

We are collecting empty pill bottles to send to Africa missions. There is a drop box in church. We will be collecting until May 10th.

Thank you to the many people who have already donated.

We will be washing and packing them on Friday, May 11th at 1pm at the church.

Anyone who can help is invited to come.

Game nights will conclude for the season with a potluck and games on Saturday, May 5th at 6pm. Bring a passing dish, your own table service and beverage and a game to play.



Upcoming things to note:

- Our Ascension Service is May 10th at 7pm.
- Our youth will be confirmed during the 10:30am service on May 20th.
- The Band/Choir Concert is Wednesday, May 23rd at 6:30pm at the school.
- Our 8th graders will graduate during the 10:30am service on June 10th.
- Summer Sewing Classes for children at school (more information below)
- Vacation Bible School at school July 23-27

Sewing Class information:

Classes are planned for Tuesday and Thursday evenings the weeks of June 11, 18, and 25th from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. They are for a parent or an adult accompanying children ages 7 - 18. They are meant to be a form of outreach, so invitations are encouraged to be extended to friends or neighbors of children that may be currently unchurched or looking for a new church home. It is to be a fun form of fellowship as well as a learning experience. There is no charge to attend these classes.

We are still looking for donations of fabric, notions or thread as well as sewing machines that can be used for the event.

The sign up sheet for students will now be on the table in the back of the church. The sign up sheet for anyone willing to

help in any capacity will remain out. There will be a meeting in the church basement on May 1 at 6:30pm for anyone wanting to assist with this project.

Call Pam Strauch (989) 666-8612 or Pat Bodary (989) 413-6746 if you have items to be donated or have questions.

Conference of Presidents spring 2018 meeting summary

2018/04/17/in Together

At its recent meeting, the Conference of Presidents (COP) reviewed the pastoral vacancy situation. It was reported that there are 125 vacancies for pastorally trained positions, with 106 of those in parishes. The vacancy rate remains high, although it has not increased since last fall.

The COP has received questions about whether the Scouting organizations have changed in a way that would make it possible for WELS members to participate. In response, the COP has begun a review of the current nature and organizational statements of those organizations to determine whether conflicts with biblical principles remain. The COP will release a report and Bible study once the study is completed.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the workload for presidents of the largest synodical districts has grown to the point where steps need to be taken to provide assistance and relief. Since we continue to believe that it's extremely vital that the district presidents remain in parish ministry, any solutions considered would maintain that approach. The COP hopes to have proposals for providing assistance to the presidents of the Western Wisconsin, Southeastern Wisconsin, and Northern Wisconsin Districts by next fall. The type of assistance may vary from district to district.

The COP called Prof. John Boeder of Martin Luther College to serve as a Christian giving counselor. Another call was issued to Rev. Eric Roecker to serve as the director of Evangelism.

The COP has begun to work with the Commission on Congregational Counseling to provide guidance to congregations seeking to merge or consolidate. The intent is to help those congregations to reconfigure their ministries in a way that results in healthy and, with God's blessing, growing congregations.

The COP will meet in May as the synod's Assignment Committee. Assignment Day at Martin Luther College is Sat., May 12. Assignment of vicars and graduates at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will take place on Thurs., May 24.

Retired pastor Rev. William Bernhardt was recently called home to heaven by our risen Savior. Bernhardt had served as the host of the WELS Connection for more than 25 years—from its beginning in 1987 until four years ago.

“As the host of WELS Connection, Rev. Bernhardt provided a consistency that helped the program become one of the most widely used communication tools in our synod,” says Mr. Steve Boettcher, who produces and directs WELS Connection. “Every month Rev. Bernhardt had the ability to bring the sights and sounds of our synod to life for our members. Rev. Bernhardt's steady presence reminded viewers that all the various WELS efforts worked together—serving our Lord under the banner of WELS and ultimately for his kingdom.”

Others have since stepped in to host the WELS Connection, but for many, Bernhardt will be the face that they always remember. We thank God for his service and for bringing another faithful warrior to his heavenly goal.