



MONONA MESSENGER

MAY 2025

+ Whom Are You Looking At? +

The disciples were thrilled. They had their Lord back in their presence once again. Since His Resurrection, He had appeared to them and others several times. They were still a little confused, though, when He talked about "wait[ing] for the gift [His] Father promised" (Acts 1:5), and, then, "He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9).

You can imagine their bewilderment. He had died and been buried and then had risen from the dead! He had walked among them and taught them again, and now. He is taken up into the clouds. No wonder they stood there — probably with mouths agape — looking into the sky where they had last seen Him.

It took "two men dressed in white" (Acts 1:10) to bring them back to their senses...
'Men of Galilee, ' "they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, Who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into Heaven ' " (Acts 1: 11).

Back they went to Jerusalem. Their eyes were no longer on the clouds, but they were still looking at Jesus. They waited. They prayed. They chose another disciple. And they waited some more — all the while looking at Jesus.

Whom are you looking at? Yes, Jesus has ascended. We can only imagine His joyful, triumphant return as all the hosts of Heaven welcomed back the risen, victorious Savior. Because He is that Savior, because He is the Author and perfecter of our faith, "let us fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2). Through His Word and Sacraments, He will lead us in His ways; He will teach us obedience and self-sacrifice; He will teach us love for our neighbors. With joyful and generous hearts, we celebrate the new life that Easter brings us by sharing the message of the Cross and the Empty Tomb with all who will listen. Keep looking at Jesus until in Heaven, you see him face to face!

In the Afterglow of Easter.

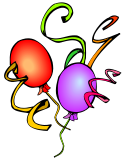
Pastor Nowak

Celebrating 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
Daniel Neuser	21
Andrea Noll	21
Sharon Bottoms	25
Gloria Lawton	26
Judie Krubsack	30

Celebrating Anniversaries in May

Paul & Susan Felton- 15 years; May 21st
Steve & Ellen Peck - 44 years; May 30th



*Congratulations and
God's Blessings!!*

Monona Messenger:

Newsletter articles for the June 2025 issue
are due on or before **Monday, May 19th**.

Articles can be emailed to the church office or dropped off at the church.

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General Fund Status

January 1 – March 31, 2025

Income

Weekly Offerings	27,805
Rental Income	10,071
Other	291

Total Income	38,167
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Expenses	47,729
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Net	(9,562)
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May 11th, 2025

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.

*Happy
Mother's Day*

Sunday School will have its last day on Sunday, May 18th. The children will have a short lesson and art activity followed by a special snack. Sunday School will resume again on Sunday, September 7th. If you have any questions, please see Judy Thompson

VOTERS' MEETING

SUNDAY

MAY 18th, 2025

10:15 a.m.



**PRESENT MEMBERS OF
MONONA LUTHERAN 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

*** Deceased Veterans of Monona Lutheran Church

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



On this Memorial Day, and every day, may you be reminded of the many blessings of freedom secured for us by the sacrifices of America's heroic Veterans!

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, May 26th in observance of the *Memorial Day Holiday*. Have safe travels and enjoy the three day weekend.

Please share: Please feel free to share the Portals 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.

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.

Why Join a Bible Study?

A big part of church life is the Bible studies that are offered. Within our church, there is a wide range of interest and involvement of our people. Some are blessed by participating in multiple studies while some of our members have no interest in attending any study. What is your experience and history of attending Bible study? You fall somewhere in the range from eagerly attending to no interest.

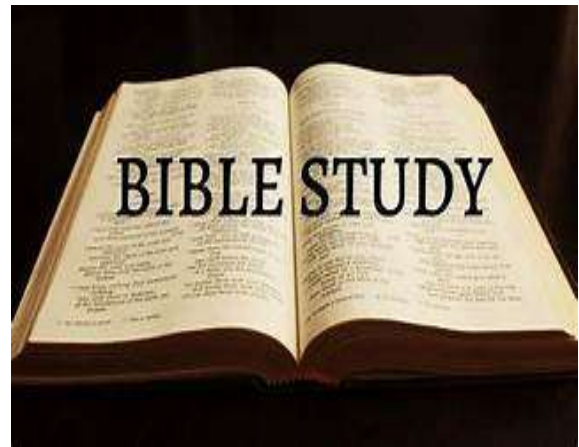
For many, the biggest impediment to attending a Bible study is time. We are so busy with work and activities that we are not willing to give priority to Bible study. However, Jesus tells us, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"* (Matthew 4:4). As our Savior said, we live not only through physical provision, but through the nourishment of the soul. God's Word comes to life within us as we read and study His Word.

God invites us to read and study His Word. God does not require us to understand everything, nor does He invite us to the Scriptures as a solution to all our problems. God invites us into a relationship through

the words of the Bible with His Son, Jesus, Who is the Living Word (John 1:1).

In addition to growing in our relationship with our Savior, Bible studies give us the opportunity to have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. A bonding often takes place as people share their faith, joys, and challenges.

I hope and pray that these few thoughts will provide a little encouragement for you to find a Bible study to attend. You will not be sorry!



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."

Give What You Have

In the time of Jesus, one's animals were among the most important assets for survival. They were a means of transportation, hauled things, and provided food and clothing.

In Luke chapter 19, we find Jesus about to make His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He tells two of His disciples. *"Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'"* (verse 30). The disciples did as Jesus requested. The owner of the colt was



caught by surprise when the two disciples were untying his animal. The owner asked, *"Why are you untying the colt?" And they said, 'The Lord has need of it'"* (vs. 34).

Given this scenario, the owner acted like a true faithful steward. To begin with, we are called to care for all the Lord has given to us just as the owner cared for his colt. Yet we are also called to be ready at any time to give away what we have when the Lord needs what we have. All that we have is to be in this constant state of readiness to be used in the kingdom of God.

Just as the owner of the colt felt joy in providing the Lord with possibly his most prized possession, his colt, we can also feel that same joy as we use our resources to further the kingdom.

Your "Stuff" Will not Last

It was not that long ago when people had a lot less "stuff," maybe only one car, one TV, and a lot fewer appliances in the kitchen. We work hard, we are busy, and we have come to believe we need all these things. Our appetite for things has grown. There is nothing necessarily wrong with these things, but the Bible warns us that the love of money and "stuff" prompts us to wander from our faith (1Timothy 6:10).

The "stuff" we own will not last because we know they can be taken away from us. Things rust, get stolen, break, or become obsolete. Through faith, we will be with God forever, and we will not even miss what we owned on earth.

Handle with Care

We have all received fragile items in boxes that are marked "Handle with Care." In some ways, the gifts we receive as stewards from God should be marked with the words "Handle with Care." Shouldn't we handle our blessings such as abilities, money, time, physical health, and relationships with utmost care? In essence, we are handling with care the blessings He entrusts to us when we are faithful and responsible with them. Realizing all of life is a gift helps us to receive with gratitude and to handle our blessings with care and thankfulness.

Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!

Orphan Grain Train

I'd like to share a bit from the recent Orphan Grain Train Wisconsin newsletter.

The Orphan Grain Train Mission statement:

In Loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan grain train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Sometimes that character expresses itself as a word well spoken, sometimes as a bandage well applied, and sometimes as a child well fed.

The OGT warehouse in Westfield has been truly blessed with many donations in recent months. The Lord is generous in His provisions, and we are filled with joy that He chooses to use us to assist Him in getting these goods, along with our prayers around the world. At the warehouse, we strive to make sure each item is a reflection of God's love and His mission through Orphan Grain Train.

There have been a few updates to the items we are collecting. There is a copy of this list on the table in the welcoming area. Items especially needed are clothes and shoes for infants, children and men.

Steve and I still regularly go to Westfield on Tuesday to help with sorting and packing. We're always willing to take along anything you have to donate. You can leave bags near the coat rack in the narthex. If you are unable to get items to church let us know and we will come pick them up at your house.

Please continue to support OGT with your prayers and financial donations. You can write OGT on a plain envelope and place it in the offering plate or use the designated envelopes on the table at church.

You're always welcome to join us on a Tuesday in Westfield! It's always a fun time of work and conversation!

Ellen and Steve Peck

Partnership Monthly Event: Plan now to attend the Partnership Game Night on **Tuesday, May 6th at St. Paul** for a meal beginning at 5:30 pm with games and socializing after. The monthly event will take place at St. Paul again in June and July. Please remember to sign up for this event in the Fellowship Hall so they can prepare accordingly.

Red Geraniums: Please help us celebrate **Pentecost**, one of the important days in the life of the church, the day the church received the gift of the Holy Spirit; by purchasing a red geranium for \$6.00 which will be planted out front to help beautify our church entrance. Donate the geranium in memory of; in celebration of; or in honor of someone special. Please fill out an order form with payment made out to Monona Lutheran Church. Orders need to be in by Monday, **May 5th**.



LWML Gathering: Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 8th at 9:00 a.m. We welcome all women of the church to join us for bible study and fellowship.

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: Angie TerMaat or the church office at 222-7071. Also, please call if you would like to become a part of our Prayer chain.

***"Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy."***



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.

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

The Importance of Work

God is the source of our work, and He gives us the ability to work. *"You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He Who gives you power to get wealth"* (Deuteronomy 8:18). In the beginning, God created work for Adam. *"The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it"* (Genesis 2:15). This work was neither punishment nor toilsome. Work became a source of hardship and suffering only as a result of sin. The Apostle Paul wrote, *"If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat"* (2 Thessalonians 3:10). We should make every effort not to become unnecessarily dependent on others.

Work brings glory to God. Work develops our abilities and creativity. Work provides the joy of accomplishment. Work is the way we provide for ourselves and our families. By not working, there will be a decay of talent, creativity, and competency that God puts into our lives. God wants us not to be lazy, but to seek work that can provide for us and help others.

Prayer: *Dear Father, thank You for giving me the interest and ability to work. Amen.*

Blessings on your journey as a steward!



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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