

Power of the Gospel

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.
Romans 1:16

Crucifixion was a most shameful way to die. The condemned individual was stripped of both clothing and dignity, nailed to a wooden cross, and left there to die slowly over the course of hours or days. It was an execution reserved for only the very worst of criminals.

With all this in mind, you might expect the early Christians to have been ashamed or even embarrassed about what had happened to Jesus. Instead, from the very beginning, the message of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross has been at the heart and core of Christianity.

As he addresses a group of Christians in Rome, the apostle Paul even calls Jesus' suffering and death "the gospel," which means "good news!" He writes, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes."

How could Paul and other Christians be so positive about the shameful death of Jesus? The answer is that by Jesus' death, God was accomplishing something wonderful for all people.

The prophet Isaiah put it like this: "He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." The reason Jesus died that shameful death on the cross was to take away all our sins—our lust, pride, selfishness and greed...every cruel word we have said to hurt other people...every wicked action for which we are ashamed and wish we could take back. All these sins, for which we deserve to be punished, were placed on Jesus and he took the punishment in our place.

Jesus' suffering and death on the cross means that we are saved from God's punishment for our sins. It means that relying on Jesus as our Savior we can look forward to eternal life in heaven that our Savior has prepared for us.

Thank God for the message of the gospel, "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." Powerful enough to wash away our sins. Powerful enough to bring us home to heaven one day. Powerful enough, and important enough, for us to rely on Jesus alone for salvation.

MARCH 2017

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LOPAHS

- **SUNDAY WORSHIP.....SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS.....FOR ALL CHILDREN....AND THEIR PARENTS....EVERY SUNDAY!**
- **Small child care/Little Lambs** available during Adult Bible Class

March 1st will be **Ash Wednesday**. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, the church's 40-day journey of repentance and renewal in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Because of its unique character and place in the church calendar, we are observing Ash Wednesday as a separate festival and not assimilated into the cycle of congregational midweek Lenten services. The Bible readings for Ash Wednesday issue a strong call for repentance and renewal. Some congregations continue the ancient custom of placing ashes on each worshiper's head as a sign of repentance. Holy Communion is celebrated appropriately on Ash Wednesday. With Ash Wednesday we notice other signs of Lent, such as the altar color of purple, setting up the cross in our chancel, and the occasional omission of "Alleluias" in our liturgy.

The overall theme for our Lenten sermons for 2017 is **"Repent: Turn to Jesus!"** The theme "Repent: Turn to Jesus!" flows from the critical questions that occasioned Martin Luther's 95 Theses and thereby the Lutheran Reformation: What is the essence of repentance? Is repentance the act of "doing penance" – making satisfaction for sin? Or is repentance something else entirely? Repentance, Luther came to see, is God's gracious gift to us. Luther proclaimed the biblical truth that the believer's entire life is a life of repentance – a daily return to the saving waters of Baptism.

More information about our mid-week Lenten services:

- Our Wednesday schedule remains the same: 4:30pm Worship, 5:30pm Lenten Supper, 7:00pm Worship
- Pastors Lopahs, Renz, Peter Hagan (Fairmont) and Wes Bruss (Darfur) will participate in our preaching rotation
- We will be using the "Evening Prayer" liturgy in the Hymnal
- Change: We will not be using the inserts with the responsive Passion History. We have used them for many years! Instead, we will be hearing "The Passion History of our Lord Jesus Christ", the Wartburg Project Version. This is a new translation of the section of passion history translated by several WELS Pastors. New translation - very Lutheran! (The Wartburg was the castle where Martin Luther translated the New Testament into German.)
- We encourage our singers – soloists - to use their talent during Lent and volunteer to sing for our mid-week services, at 4:30 and/or 7pm.
- The Lenten Supper schedule is, in order: St. Paul's PTO, Ladies serving group #1, Ladies serving group #2, Ladies serving group #3, our Youth-in-Action, and Mr. White's classroom (grades 5-8)

Wednesday, March 1: ASH WEDNESDAY

- Theme: "Repent! Turn to Jesus and Not to Yourself" Luke 18: 9-14
- Preacher: Pastor Lopahs
- Services of Holy Communion
- Singing: Day School PreK-8
- Lenten supper: St Paul's PTO

SUNDAY, MARCH 5: Lent 1

- 9am Worship with Holy Communion
- Worship Supplement Divine Service I, page 15
- text/message: Matthew 4: 1-11 Victory over Temptation Sunday

Voter's Meeting Minutes – January 29, 2017

Twenty-two voters were present. Trustee Brent Kueker had excused himself. Chairman Klarice Rinne called the meeting to order at 10:35 am and Rev. Lopahs gave the devotion. The agenda was approved. The minutes of Sept 18, 2016 were read and approved.

The council elections results were:

Treasurer – none

Church Elder – Denny Sander, Kirk Kratovil

Education Elder – Josh Haseman, Jacob Karau, Logan Kratovil

Stewardship Elder – Tim Flitter

Trustee – James Sodeman

MVL Delegates – Josh Haseman and Tim Flitter

Thanks to everyone who let their names be put on the ballot.

The voters passed these membership changes: Release Karen (Senf) Junker, who will join Resurrection Lutheran in Mankato, accept the following into membership, the adults having successfully completed Bible Information Class: Holly Ware-Malmgren and daughter Allison – by affirmation of faith, from Baptist church; Steve and Nicole VanWyk and children Kahsen and Lynnzae – by affirmation of faith, from St. Olaf, Odin (ELCA); Andrew Ekstrom by affirmation of faith from Immanuel, Fairmont (LCMS); Bethanie Denton by affirmation of faith from St. John Vianney Catholic, release Jason Eineke at his request.

The voters set our 2017 giving goals at \$43,800 for Mission offerings (CMO) and \$16,000 for MVL.

The voters accepted “St. Paul’s Mission – Vision – Objectives” as presented. Copies will be available. Thanks to all who worked on this project.

The voters passed the recommended changes to the St. Paul’s MVL Student Tuition Assistance Fund:

FROM – all money received in a year, equally given to all our students, whether asked for it or not;

TO - all money received in a year, 50% of it is available to students who ask, and 50% is put into the Fund.

As always, special requests can be made for help, depending on need.

The voters passed a motion allowing the Youth Care Program to begin the process of hiring a director for the youth care program and preschool.

Chairman Rinne had a printed report for the 500TH Anniversary of the Reformation Committee. The council gave the committee to raise and manage funds for any projects. They will ask WELS president Schroeder to be guest preacher.

The Elders have started to talk about the need for and options for a second pastor.

Pastor went over his written report. On Jan 1, 2017, St. Paul’s had 415 communicant member and 82 non-communicants, 497 in all. Milestones for 2016 included Pastor Natsis talking a call to California, property projects funded by the Jacobs estate, BIC classes, school accreditation, cottage meetings, and the gift of an AED.

The Evangelism Team will meet in February.

Mr. White reported that enrollment is 51. The school is now fully accredited. Mr. White has been accepted into the Master’s Program at MLC.

The Youth Program has 4 more kids.

The Stewardship Elders have gotten out the contribution reports. Work on the budget will start in February.

Jim Garrison went over the Heritage Foundation report, which was accepted by the voters.

The Synod debt has been eliminated.

Treasurer Heldt presented the 2016 Annual Report. Total indebtedness increased by about \$25,000.

Travis Kiecker said that Elwood Heldt is working on the railing for the chancel steps. Salting the parking lots cost about \$200. The voters passed a motion to ask the Heritage Foundation for about \$1500 to install lighting for the circle drive.

Pete Wentzel gave the Cemetery Board report. The hand pump for water at the cemetery has been replaced with an electric one with solar power. For 2107, they are planning tree work and seal coating the road.

The next Voters’ Meeting is May 21, 2017. We will meet upstairs at 10:15.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sherwood Wessel

Wednesday, March 8: 2nd mid-week Lent

- Theme: Repent! Turn to Jesus, He Longs to Forgive You” Luke 23: 32-34
- Preacher: Pastor Peter Hagen, pastor of Shepherd of the Lakes, Fairmont
- Lenten supper: ladies serving group #1

SUNDAY, MARCH 12: Lent 2

- 9am Worship
- Christian Worship p 38, Service of the Word
- text/message: John 4: 5-26 Jesus and Samaritan Woman

Wednesday, March 15: 3rd mid-week Lent

- Theme: “Repent! Turn to Jesus, He Holds the Key to Heaven” Luke 23: 35-43
- Preacher: Pastor Wesley Bruss, pastor of St John’s, Darfur
- Lenten supper: ladies serving group #2

SUNDAY, MARCH 19: Lent 3

- 9am Worship. It is Communion Sunday
- Christian Worship page 26 Service of Word and Sacrament
- Text/message: John 9: 1-7, 13-17, 34-39 “I was blind but now I see”
- singing: Sunday School
- Deadline for items for the March newsletter

Wednesday, March 22: 4th mid-week Lent

- theme: “Repent! Turn to Jesus, Do Not Turn Away” Matthew 27: 1-5
- preacher: Pastor Jim Renz
- Lenten supper: ladies serving group # 3

SUNDAY, MARCH 26: Lent 4

- 9am Worship
- Christian Worship page 45, Morning Praise
- Text/Message: Mt 20: 17-28 The Cross First, then Glory
- WELS Connection
- The March newsletter will be in your mailbox

Wednesday, March 29: Lent 5

- theme: “Repent! Turn to Jesus, He Changes Your Life” Luke 7: 44-50
- preacher: Pastor Lopahs
- Lenten supper: Youth-in-Action

REMEMBER: MONDAY NIGHT WORSHIP 7PM

While you may be busy or gone over the weekend.....please remember....there is Monday night Worship at 7pm!

Meals on Wheels Treats



- Thanks so much to all who contributed items for the Meals on Wheels Valentine goody bags. Thanks especially to the school children: Grades 1-8 beautifully decorated the bags and/or made cards, grades 5-8 assembled the bags, and the 4th graders helped distribute them to about 45 recipients of Meals on Wheels and community center diners. The recipients seemed very pleased to be remembered on Valentine's Day.

Evangelism/Outreach Team

The Evangelism/Outreach Team met February 12 to discuss upcoming events. **Easter for Kids** will be held on Saturday, April 8, from 9 – noon. If you could help with the planning of this event, please talk to Clarice Fastenau. We'd love some new ideas and new leaders. Other events coming up are the **Railroad Days Parade** (June 24), **Soccer Camp** (July 17-21), and **Watsonwan County Fair** (July 20-23). We'll be asking for your help with all of them.

We hope you realize that you are all a very important part of St. Paul's evangelism and outreach efforts. YOU have the opportunity to visit with your new neighbor and invite him/her to come to our church. YOU can smile and welcome a visitor who comes to our services. YOU can help the visitor who sits next to you in the pew and needs help finding the order of service or hymns in Christian Worship or the Supplement. Most visitors come to a church, not because of an evangelism event, but because a friend or neighbor invited them to come. Most visitors come back because the members were very friendly and welcoming to them on their first visit.

PIONEERS

Look for more details in the church bulletins.

March 4: Girl and Boy Pioneers will work at the St James American Legion Chicken Fry beginning at 4:15. Please come to support our programs and have a fine supper. Proceeds from pie sales go to missions—Kids Care, what we get from helping there is divided between our girl and boy programs.



March 10: Boy Pioneer Activity and movie night. This fun evening is scheduled for Friday night, March 10th from 5:30 to 9 p.m. All boys are encouraged to come and invite a friend. Pizza will be served for our supper. The movie: "Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life", rated PG. The author is coming to school in April, and Mrs. Hoffman has been reading this book to her classroom this year. Josh and Melissa Haseman and Juana Acosta will be the chaperones for this event. **Boy Pioneer parents are welcome and encouraged to stay and join their sons for this event!**

March 19: District Pioneer activity—Swim and Gym day at Lake Crystal. All families of the congregation are invited to join the fun afternoon for swimming and gym time. The cost is \$3.50 per person—please tell the Rec Center that you are part of the Lutheran Pioneer group to qualify for this discounted rate, which covers the use of the gym, pool, and walking track. There is an additional charge of \$1.50 to use the big water slide. The Rec Center is open from 1:00-5:00, but the pool closes at 4:00pm. Each family is asked to bring a snack to share, beverages, plates, and napkins are provided. We will carpool from the parking lot, leaving at 12:15. Please sign up in the narthex and parents; let us know if you can drive.



March 31: Girl Pioneer Sleep over. The girls may start arriving at 5:45pm for many fun spa, relaxation and craft activities. Friends are welcome to come but we need to know how many will join us. We need moms, grandmas and others to help with the evening. **The girls should wear comfortable clothing and bring warm socks along with a sleeping bag, pillow and small snack to share.**

Church Council Minutes – February 19, 2017

Present were Pastor Lopahs, Mr. White, Klarice Rinne, Sherwood Wessel, Kirk Kratovil, Adam Munsterman, Josh Haseman, Jan Miller, Elroy Geistfeld, Tim Flitter, Jared Schwichtenberg, and Brent Kueker.

Chairman Rinne called the meeting to order at 10:15. The District Office will not give us a list of names to replace Mr. White unless we decide on a compensation package. There was a lot of discussion on Synod salary guidelines and housing. The Council decided to schedule another meeting after the open forum on Feb 26, and to move the call meeting from March 5 to March 12.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50

Respectfully submitted,
Sherwood Wessel

Church Council Minutes – January 19, 2017

Present were Pastor Lopahs, Mr. White, Klarice Rinne, Elwood Heldt, Sherwood Wessel, Adam Munsterman, Ted Hedberg, Jim Renz, Jan Miller, Elroy Geistfeld, Travis Kiecker and Jared Schwichtenberg. Josh Haseman and Brent Kueker were excused. There were 2 guests from MVL - Principal Tim Plath and Mission Advancement Director Jim Hahn.

Chairman Rinne called the meeting to order at 7:00. Pastor's devotion compared our short life and God's eternal grace.

Mr. Plath began by thanking our congregation for sending our students and for our financial support. He discussed current and future enrollment, which is expected to be over 200 in the 2018-19 school year. Some of the blessings they have seen are the growth of AP classes, the faculty working to continue their education, and a reduction in capital debt. This was followed by a discussion of the "Congregational Commitment Analysis", which showed how increased gifts from the congregations would lower tuition. The Council thanked Mr. Plath and Mr. Hahn for their presentation.

The evening's agenda was approved. The Dec. 15 minutes were approved.

The Council voted to release Jason Eineke at his request.

The Council voted to recommend that we leave our mission goal at \$43,800 and increase our MVL goal to \$16,000.

The Council voted to recommend changing the St. Paul's MVL Student Tuition Assistance Fund as follows:

FROM – all money received in a year, equally given to all our students, whether asked for it or not;

TO - all money received in a year, 50% if it is available to students who ask, and 50% is put into the Fund.

As always, special requests can be made for help, depending in need.

The Council voted to recommend the church's MVO statement to the voters. The Voters' Agenda was approved.

Klarice Rinne reported for the 500th Reformation Anniversary committee. The Council voted to give the Committee the authority to raise and manage funds as needed.

The Elders have been discussing a second minister. What things are getting missed now? How could we expand our ministry with additional help?

Pastor Lopahs started a BIC class in January. The Lammler family wishes to donate a good video projector as a memorial.

Enrollment is 51. St. Paul's School is now fully accredited. 2 MLC students are practicing their Spanish teaching skills at our school. Mr. White discussed his call to South Haven, MI. The staff went to MLC on Jan 16 for meetings on religion curriculum.

Mr. White said that parents feel the Youth Program lacks consistent leadership. The next step should be to hire a director and to get licensed for 3-4 year olds.

The budget process will start in February.

Treasurer Heldt presented the 2016 Annual Report. Total indebtedness increased by about \$25,000.

Travis Kiecker reported for the Trustees. It costs about \$200 to de-ice the parking lot. Call the Trustees if the ice gets bad. The birch trees by the parsonage have been taken care of. It was the consensus of the council that additional lighting is needed on the circle drive. Ron Aden submitted a bid of \$1100 for gutters, flashing, etc. in the courtyard.

The Council passed a motion to recommend the ballot as presented.

A sincere thank you to those who served and are serving on the Council. The voters meet in Jan 29 at 10:15 upstairs in church.

Church leaders will be installed on February 5

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted, Sherwood Wessel

Evening Guild Minutes

February 7, 2017

St. Paul's Lutheran Evening Guild met on February 7, at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Lopahs opened our meeting with a devotion, "Soon? Soon!" continuing our study of the Hard Sayings of Jesus.

Dorothy Hedberg opened the meeting.

Roll Call was answered with 14 members present and 1 guest. Our guest was Shauna Rayl. Shauna was added as a new member. Welcome Shauna.

Secretary's Report: Minutes were approved as printed. Correspondence was read from Calvary Academy in Florida thanking us for our offering from our Christmas party.

Treasurer's Report: Balance on hand is \$5,609.75 of which total designated is \$3,274.82 and total undesignated is \$2,334.93. Kitchen fund has a balance of \$890.06.

Pastor's Notes: First 500 Anniversary Committee meeting was held. Pastor Schroeder will be here on December 10 as our guest pastor. Ideas have been discussed on how to celebrate the 500 anniversary of the reformation.

Committee Reports:

MLC- Sue- No Report

Treasure Haus- Connie- Annual meeting will be in March

LWMS- Clarice read the message from the February calendar. Spring rally will be April 29 at Arlington, with Terry Schulz speaking. He is from Wisconsin and has been in Haiti working with the orphans after the recent hurricanes.

Spring Banquet- May 7, need to divide into two groups. One group will handle the food and the other group will handle the silent auction.

Old Business:

Ladies Bathroom Project- No report at this time

Quiet Children's Bags- Donations have been made of children books. Will order Cheerio books.

Accordion window shades/dividers for kitchen- Dorothy brought prices and information on them. Any action on these was tabled until next month.

Salt/pepper and silverware holders- Kitchen Committee will order.

M/S/P motion was made to purchase a new colander for kitchen use.

New kitchen cleaning sheet will be made up and posted for kitchen cleaning duties.

Communion Cloth update- cloth was repaired.

New Business:

Lenten lunch donations: M/S Motion was made to put the donations towards the counter shutters project. Motion was tabled.

Lent serving schedule

March 1-PTO

March 8-Group #1

March 15-Group #2

March 22-Group #3

March 29-YIA

April 5- Mr. White's Class

Banners- Connie will help with Tammy with Lenten Banners

Jesus and the Children Case-M/S/P Motion made to purchase display case for Jesus and the Children figurine.

Mary Lopahs will order.

Planters- front of church-Dorothy will take care of these

Care Group Committee-Jane Birkholz will look into possibility of setting up a care group committee which would entail visiting people in need.

Church Cleaning Day-Dorothy asked for a church cleaning day to clean out storage cleaning and general cleaning around church. Date picked was March 18. Watch for more details.

Pioneers are working Chicken Fry March 4 Lana passed around sign-up sheet for pie donations.

AFTERNOON GUILD – February 2, 2017

St. Paul's Afternoon Guild met February 2 at 2:00 p.m. President Mary Lopahs welcomed everyone. Pastor Lopahs led the devotion, "Hard Sayings of Jesus," based on passages in Revelation, Mark, and 2 Peter which focus on Jesus' second coming. Jesus will be coming soon. Many of the signs of the second coming are already here. No one knows the time of Jesus' return in judgment. We look forward to Judgment Day when all believers will leave this world and go to heaven. Pastor also talked about our congregation's plans for celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. We are hoping WELS President Schroeder will preach sometime, we plan to show the new Luther movie at the theater, and we plan to have a German theme for our church picnic. The next meeting of the Reformation celebration committee will be Tuesday evening, February 28, at 7:00 p.m.

President Mary Lopahs opened the business meeting. Roll call was answered by 11 members. The secretary read the minutes of the January meeting. The treasurer reported a balance of \$647.97. The secretary's report and treasurer's reports were approved. Loretta Hoffman and Germaine Rust audited the treasurer's books and found them in good order. The Bibles for the third graders have been paid for. The secretary read a thank you from the Engelbrecht family.

Committee Reports

LWMS: Clarice read about a student at Asia Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong. The LWMS convention will be in Orlando, Florida, June 22-25. The spring rally will be April 29 at St. Paul's in Arlington.

CAMM – We will make rolled bandages for Zambia at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 16.

Cards – Clarice sent two worship cards. Lila sent six birthday cards. Greeting cards are always available for purchase.

Old Business

Lenten Suppers – The suppers will be served by PTO, the three serving groups, Youth in Action, and After-School-Care. Callers will be asking for food donations or \$5 to help cover expenses. Any extra money will be given toward a church project.

Wish List – Pastor said that lighting for the circle drive will be added soon. The communion rail for the steps being built by Elwood Heldt is nearly ready to be installed.

Miscellaneous

Donations are requested for Valentine goody bags for Meals on Wheels recipients. . .A clean-up day is planned for a future Saturday. . .Group 2 serves the next event. . .February birthday: Marcia Dubois (6). . February Altar Guild: Rhonda Miller and Lana Sander. March Altar Guild: Deb Johnson and Kailey White. . .Thank you to Marcia Dubois and Barb Rinne for serving delicious refreshments today.

Next Meeting – March 2, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. Nettie Johnson will serve refreshments.

Mary's Thought for the Day: "Generosity is a condition of the heart, not the wallet."

The meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Clarice Fastenau, Secretary

MONTHLY REMINDER OF SERVERS, MARCH 2017

Deacons

March 1	4:30pm	Don Fastenau
March 1	7:00pm	Sherwood Wessel
March 5	9:00am	Steve Sodeman
March 8	4:30pm	Don Fastenau
March 8	7:00pm	Sherwood Wessel
March 12	9:00am	Don Fastenau
March 15	4:30pm	Don Fastenau
March 15	7:00pm	Sherwood Wessel
March 19	9:00am	Tim Flitter
March 22	4:30pm	Don Fastenau
March 22	7:00pm	Sherwood Wessel
March 26	9:00am	Jim Pluym
March 29	4:30pm	Don Fastenau
March 29	7:00pm	Sherwood Wessel

Greeters: Please arrive 20 minutes before service begins.

March 1	4:30pm	Cheryl Steffen
March 1	7:00pm	
March 5	9:00am	Lorraine Behlmer
March 8	4:30pm	Klarice Rinne
March 8	7:00pm	Jan/Rhonda Miller
March 12	9:00am	Klarice Rinne
March 15	4:30pm	Howard/Sheri Swanson
March 15	7:00pm	Jim/Joni Garrison
March 19	9:00am	Harley/Nona Westman
March 22	4:30pm	Sue Renz
March 22	7:00pm	Mary Soucek
March 26	9:00am	Ann Parker
March 29	4:30pm	Steve/Kailey White
March 29	7:00pm	Samantha Runge

Organists and Pianists:

March 1	4:30pm	Clarice Fastenau
March 1	7:00pm	Clarice Fastenau
March 5	9:00am	Christ Pitcher
March 8	4:30pm	Clarice Fastenau
March 8	7:00pm	Myrna Eppeland
March 12	9:00am	Clarice Fastenau
March 15	4:30pm	Clarice Fastenau
March 15	7:00pm	Myrna Eppeland
March 19	9:00am	Chris Pitcher
March 22	4:30pm	Clarice Fastenau
March 22	7:00pm	Myrna Eppeland
March 26	9:00am	Clarice Fastenau
March 29	4:30pm	Clarice Fastenau
March 29	7:00pm	Myrna Eppeland

Recorders:

March 5	9:00am	Freitag
March 12	9:00am	Lundberg
March 19	9:00am	Sanders
March 26	9:00am	Parker

Kitchen Cleaning: Connie Heldt, Chris Pitcher, Vonnie Gratz

Flowers: Mary Lopahs

Kitchen Supplies: Marlys Emerson

Kerry Candles: LaDonna Quick, Joyce Coleman

Altar Guild: Deb Johnson, Kailey White

Ushers

March 1	4:30pm	Dan Birkholz, Adam Munsterman
March 1	7:00pm	John Munsterman, Brent Kueker
March 5	9:00am	Mike, Brandon, Lucas Johnson, Elwood Heldt
March 8	4:30pm	Howard Swanson, Tim Flitter
March 8	7:00pm	Kevin and Ben Foss
March 12	9:00am	Denny Sander, Brent Kueker, Klarice Rinne, Jim Garrison
March 15	4:30pm	Dan Gratz, Dale Anderson
March 15	7:00pm	Steve Sodeman, Dan Birkholz
March 19	9:00am	Brandon and Damion Lundberg, Howard Swanson, Ben Foss
March 22	4:30pm	Ted Hedberg, Steve White
March 22	7:00pm	Elwood Heldt, Denny Sander
March 26	9:00am	Travis Kiecker, Chad Lange, Kirk Kratovil, Logan Kratovil
March 29	4:30pm	Tim Flitter, Dale Lange
March 29	7:00pm	Dan Gratz, Scott Hoffman

Serving Groups:

Group #1 served the Herb Engelbrecht funeral

Group #2 is up for next event/funeral

Birthdays:

Marcia Dubois – February 6

Kitchen Cleaning: February: Patty Rotert, Lynn Wagner, Sheri Swanson

March: Connie Heldt, Chris Pitcher, Vonnie Gratz

Altar Guild: February: Rhonda Miller, Lana Sander

March: Deb Johnson and Kailey White

Servers for March: Sue Renz and Clarice Fastenau

Next Meeting March 7, 2017

Adjournment: 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted Brenda Nommensen, Secretary

Letter from Malawi, Africa

Lutheran Mobile Clinic (CAMM)

Lilongwe, Malawi

February, 2017

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

Romans 8: 26-27

Greetings from the warm heart of Africa,

Failures in communication are frustrating, aren't they? Just when you think you have selected the exact words you would like to say, the words that actually come out of your mouth are not at all what you had planned to say. Do you struggle to find the right words for a given situation and instead keep silent?

Communication gaps and failures are all too common for me these days, as I am learning to speak Chichewa. Studying a book, using flashcards and practicing conversations with my teacher are indeed helpful, but all too often I find myself lacking the appropriate vocabulary and frustrated that I can't seem to make myself understood. On more than one occasion I have wished I had my teacher with me so she could fill in the gaps of my broken Chichewa sentences! Fortunately, I have found that many Malawians are delighted that I am trying to speak Chichewa and are quick to use any English they know when I say, "*Pepani. Sindi kumvetsa*" (I'm sorry. I don't understand).

Do you ever wonder if your prayers are hung up in communication gaps with God? Perhaps you have prayed the same prayer year after year but the Lord sends something else. You thought your carefully selected vocabulary was clear, but it seems God misunderstood. Could it be that our thoughts and pleadings are not up to the standard of the Most High? Or maybe you're not sure what to pray for and you wonder if the Lord would rather you keep silent until you can offer up a well-crafted prayer. If only there was an interpreter to fill in the gaps of our unfocused thoughts and broken sentences!

We can rejoice and take comfort that our prayers are neither lost in translation nor misinterpreted, because our God operates beyond the confines of our narrow thoughts and limited vocabulary. There is no reason to fear that our imperfectly crafted prayers will not be understood by our Father, because Jesus died to win us the privilege of prayer, and the Spirit is actively filling in all of the gaps. There is no communication failure, because the Father sees into our very hearts and knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows what we can bear and what is best for us and "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Through Jesus, our God is delighted to hear from us in prayer and always sends what we truly need exactly when we truly need it. Always!

Your sister in Christ,

Amanda Artz, Clinic Administrator (Amanda arrived in Malawi in late November.)

Lutheran Mobile Clinic

PS. During the past months over 1300 Malawians received tooth brushes and oral hygiene training through CAMM and an organization called TeethSavers. Many had never owned a tooth brush before.

St. Paul's Church and School

March 2017

HC=Holy Communion ABC = Adult Bible Class SS = Sunday School PSCC = Public School Confirmation Class BIC = Bible Information Class

<p>Each Sunday: 6:30am "Time of Grace" cable Ch.9. 8am Lutheran Chapel service, KNUJ 860 AM radio 9am Sunday Worship, and 7pm Monday worship HC 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, Each Friday, our service is shown at 1pm on cable Ch. 7 or 8.</p>		<p>1 Early Dismissal 1:30p 9:30 Bible Class Ash Wednesday services PreK-8th grade sing 4:30pm and 7:00pm/HC 5:30 meal PTO Choir practice after late service</p>	<p>2 2:00p Afternoon Guild</p>	<p>3 Pastor's Day Off Wedding: Nanci Geistfeld and Joe Oskerson</p>	<p>4 STEM Camp 10:00-2:00 RSVP to Steve 608-451-1482 Pioneers work the Legion Chicken Fry</p>
<p>5 9:00 Worship/HC 10:15 SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen 10:15 ABC 10:30-2 MVL Pork chop dinner 2:00pm BIC</p>	<p>6 7p Worship/HC 7p Messy Monday</p>	<p>7 9:00a Ladies' Bible Class 5:15p Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>8 Early Dismissal 1:30p 4:00 PSCC Midweek Lent Service 4:30pm and 7:00pm 5:30 meal Group 1 Choir practice after late service</p>	<p>9 10:30a Brandt Ridge 11:00a Prairie View</p>	<p>10 Pastor's Day Off 5:30pm Boy Pioneers movie night</p>
<p>12 9am Worship 10:15 SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen 10:15 Voter's meeting 11:15 YIA Meeting/Activity 2:00pm BIC</p>	<p>13 10:00 Pastor's Study Club 7p Worship</p>	<p>14 6:30-7:30 School Early Registration 9:00a Ladies' Bible Class 3:30p Pleasant View/HC 5:15p Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>15 Early Dismissal 1:30 9:30 Bible Class 4:00 PSCC Midweek Lent Service 4:30pm and 7:00pm 5:30 meal Group 2 Choir practice after late service</p>	<p>16 5:30pm Church Elders 7:00pm Church Council</p>	<p>17 Pastor's Day Off 7:00pm School play at Marian Hall End of 3rd quarter</p>
<p>19 9am Worship/HC 10:15 SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen 10:15 ABC Swim and Gym--Pioneers at Lake Crystal Rec Center *Newsletter deadline*</p>	<p>20 7p Worship/HC NO SCHOOL Spring Break</p>	<p>21 9:00a Ladies' Bible Class 5:15p Women's Bible Study NO SCHOOL Spring Break</p>	<p>22 Early Dismissal 1:30 4:00 PSCC Midweek Lent Service 4:30pm and 7:00pm 5:30 meal Group 3 NO SCHOOL Spring Break Choir practice after late service</p>	<p>23 NO SCHOOL Spring Break</p>	<p>24 1pm newsletter assembly Pastor's Day Off NO SCHOOL Spring Break</p>
<p>26 9am Worship 10:15 SS, Jr Teen, Sr Teen 10:15 ABC MVL Auction 11-2 Justin Elzenga benefit St James VFW</p>	<p>27 Treasure Haus workday 7p Worship</p>	<p>28 9:00a Ladies' Bible Class 3:30p Pleasant View 5:15p Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>29 Early Dismissal 1:30 Midweek Lent Service 4:30pm and 7:00pm 5:30 meal YIA Choir practice after late service</p>	<p>30 Pastor's Day Off 5:45pm Girl Pioneers Sleep-over</p>	<p>31 Report cards go home Pastor's Day Off 5:45pm Girl Pioneers Sleep-over</p>

The Lamplighter

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