**Cross****Words**

**Monthly Newsletter of Cross Ev. Lutheran Church**

6001 Main St. Rockford, MN 55373 Phone: 763-477-5981

website: [www.crosslutheranwels.org](http://www.crosslutheranwels.org) email: office@crosslutheranwels.org

Pastor: Rev. Michael Barlow home: 763-477-5292 cell: 763-276-8750

email: pastor@crosslutheranwels.org

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The Bible Is the Ultimate Authority

Many people call themselves “spiritual” or “religious.” What that means is not always clear. Some think it means simply loving others and having a deep respect for a god or a supreme being somewhere. Those people depend on their feelings or personal spiritual insight. Some even claim that God continues to provide special revelations for them through visions and dreams or through mediums and spiritists. Most of them refuse to believe that the Bible is the ultimate authority in spiritual matters. They look for direction and guidance from other places.

Those who deny the ultimate authority of the Bible in these ways are making the same tragic error made by many others centuries ago. God’s Old Testament prophets called God’s people to turn away from mediums and false prophets and to return to God’s Word. In the New Testament the apostles also warned their readers to be on guard against false teachers and their false teachings. They urged their fellow Christians to use the standard of the inspired Scriptures to test those who claimed to be speaking for God. They pointed people back to the Bible because it is God’s inspired and inerrant Word.

We believe what God’s prophets and apostles did. Since the Bible is God’s inspired and inerrant Word, it is also the only and ultimate authority in matters of faith and life. Our Lutheran Confessions declare: “We believe, teach, and confess that the prophetic and apostolic writings of the Old and New Testaments are the only rule and norm according to which all doctrines and teachers alike must be appraised and judged, as it is written in Psalm 119:105, ‘Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.’ And St. Paul says in Galatians 1:8, ‘Even if an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed’” (Formula of Concord, Epitome; Tappert, p. 464).

Because the Bible is the only and ultimate authority in matters of faith and life, any preacher we might hear and any book about spiritual matters we might read must be tested in the light of the Bible. If they do not agree with the Bible, we must recognize them as being false. False teaching never helps faith; it always harms faith in Christ. It is best for our faith to reject them and avoid them. If, on the other hand, those preachers, teachers, and books agree with the Bible, we can make good use of their insights and applications. We can take their messages to heart and rejoice in the truth.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| KMSP |  | Channel 9 |  Sundays | 6:30 AM |

**Our Congregation’s Mission Statement**

This statement, in a concise and novel way, summarizes our mission and purpose for existing. All other groups and activities within the congregation ought to be carrying this mission out.

**C**ross Ev. Lutheran Church exists to give glory to our God and Savior by

**R**egular worship and faithful use of the Means of Grace with

**O**utreach to the community, nation, and world through our prayers and offerings by

**S**erving our fellow Christians and community, in turn

**S**trengthening our faith and promoting Christian fellowship.

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Please check out our congregation’s Facebook page and “like” us. Check us out every few days and “like” some of the inspirational and encouraging pictures and share announcements about events with your friends. This is one easy way to share information about our church and God’s Word with others.

**News From The Church Council**

**Trustees** Estimates on replacing the carpeting in the various areas of the church are being obtained. The first estimate for the entire church that is currently carpeted is $22,545. The estimate is broken down into the various areas of the church, enabling us to just carpet certain areas at a time. A second estimate will be obtained.

 The painting of the restrooms is being considered. Suggestions for colors are being sought. If you a suggestion, please speak to either Dan Hanson, Mark Kettenacker , Dennis Goneau or Doug Roush.

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**Synod Convention Delegate:** Our congregation is up for sending a lay delegate to the 2017 WELS Convention, to be held July 31 through Aug 3 at Luther Prep School in Watertown, WI. ***Any voting member of the congregation is eligible to attend,. Let the pastor know if you are interested.***

**Treasurer:** Since the funds are available, the final debenture still owed will be paid off.

**![C:\Users\CL\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\CLALE9X5\elections-©-christophe-BOISSON-Fotolia.com_[1].jpg]()**

**Elections:** At the annual meeting in January, the following positions will be up for election: Treasurer (Joel Schumann is the current treasurer and is eligible for another three-year term). One elder (Marty Bogart is incumbent eligible for a second three-year term) and one trustee (Mark Kettenacker is incumbent eligible for another three year term). If you are asked to be on the ballot and serve if elected, please give your prayerful consent.

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**ANNUAL MEETING** The Annual meeting of our congregation will be on Sunday, January 22 at 10:15 am. Reports on the various areas of ministry will be given and discussed. Among the items on the voters’ meeting portion of the meeting will be elections for the church council and adopting a budget for 2017. Everyone is encouraged to attend.



**Christmas Worship Schedule:**

Here is the schedule of special worship services through the New Year:

- ***Children’s Christmas Service*** – Dec 18, 9:00 am

- ***Christmas Eve*** – Saturday, Dec 24 4:00 pm (NOTE: Only one service)

- ***Christmas Day*** – Sunday, Dec 25 9:00 am ( No Wed service on Dec 21&28)

- ***New Year’s Eve*** – Sat Dec 31 at 7:00 pm (Lord’s Supper)

**NOTE: During December, the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated on Dec 4 (and the preceding Wednesday) and on New Year’s Eve and the next day, Sunday, January 1.**



**“Hanging of the Greens”** The annual church decorating for Christmas will be held ***on Sunday, Dec 4.*** It will begin with a pot luck dinner at 11:45 am. From there we will break out into groups and put up the Christmas Tree and other decoration around the church. ERVERYONE IS INVITED AND ENCOURED TO COME AND TAKE PART IN THE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP.

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**CROSS LIGHTS**

 On Tuesday, December 6th, beginning at 8:00 p.m.  there will be a Cross LIGHTS work night to prepare for the December 8th Christmas party. We will be setting the tables and decorating them, assembling the shut-in gifts, preparing some of the food and any other miscellaneous tasks that need to be done.  Please come and help.

 Cross L.I.G.H.T.S. invites the ladies of the congregation to join us for our annual Christmas Party.

We would like to try something different this year and not only will we start the evening with a Spaghetti Dinner, but we will be holding the party on a Thursday evening. This will be held in the Church Fellowship Hall, on ***Thursday, December 8th, beginning at 6:30 PM.***

WHAT TO BRING: Mite Boxes; Food Shelf Item; 1/2 Dozen Christmas Cookies; Wrapped Christmas Ornament to Exchange

We are planning a fun evening and certainly hope that you will be able to join us. f you have questions, or need a ride, please call. Debbie Ernst - 763-221-0850 or Elly Landeck - 763-682-1197. Hope to see you on the 8th!

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**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE FOR DECEMBER IS**

Cross LIGHTS

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**MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY**

MBBS will not meet in December. We will resume in January - on January 21.

**NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION**

 **Lutheran Mobile Clinic**

 *‘On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?”*

*‘‘What is written in the Law?’’ he replied, ‘‘How do you read it?’’*

*He answered: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

*“You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.”’* Luke 10:25-28

*Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”* Hebrews 13:1-3

You may be surprised to know that the US election is big news in Malawi these days, and not just among the Americans. Many Malawians from all walks of life; from the bank teller, to my volleyball teammates, to our staff, as well members of the ex-pat community have wanted to discuss the elections this past month. It may seem strange to think that residents of the small African nation of Malawi would be interested in not only the outcome of our Presidential election but also how we conduct ourselves during our political process. However, one of the things the frequent discussions I’ve had with Malawians and others from all over the world reminded me of is just how many eyes and ears are on not only our nation but each and every one of us every day, especially when we don’t think anyone is paying attention.

 1 Thessalonians 5:11 and 15 tell us, *‘Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing….Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else.’* The elections and all of its negativity made quite an impression over here in recent weeks and months, and unfortunately it was not one of kindness and building one another up as Paul encourages us. Thankfully your kindness and generosity in the name of Christ continues to do that here even when we think no one is looking. Those keeping up with the elections over here have shared with me everything from sadness and dismay to fear because of the negativity surrounding our elections. Yet, for all that negativity in the news, a simple act of going to the store reminded me of the cloud of witnesses each and every one of you are to those you will likely never meet here in Malawi. A store employee was helping me carry some items to the car the other day and upon realizing she was taking the items to an ambulance, she asked what we do here. After I told her what we do, she offered God’s blessings to me and the clinic for what we do here. Thank you for continuing to make a difference.

*“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”* Matthew 7:12

In Christ, Alison Westphal (Clinic Administrator of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic)

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***"Steps of Martin Luther" tour***

*Pastor James Humann, retired WELS pastor, invites you to join him September 18, 2017 for a twelve day, "Steps of Martin Luther" tour to Germany to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The itinerary includes not only the major sites connected with Luther and the Reformation, but also Prague in the Czech Republic, and Salzburg and Vienna in Austria. Space is limited. Two buses have already been filled for a June departure. For information about this September tour, including the price and complete itinerary, e-mail Pastor Humann at* *JHumann383@aol.com**. If you would also like a hard copy of the brochure, please include your name and mailing address.*

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