**Cross****Words**

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

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**February 2017 Volume 17, Issue 2**

**Two Main Teachings of the Bible: Law and Gospel**

The two main teachings of the Bible are law and gospel. God first gave his moral law at creation, when he put it in mankind’s heart. People’s consciences often tell them whether they are obeying this law or breaking it. But our sinful nature can rationalize disobedience. So because sin clouded God’s law in the heart, he also gave the moral law in written form through Moses. This summary of the moral law is the Ten Commandments.

With the moral law God tells us what to do and what not to do. He demands that we love him above all and that we love our neighbors as ourselves. He demands holiness, that is, no sin but absolute moral perfection.

But who can do this? Sin has corrupted us all so thoroughly that each of us has to admit failure. We have missed the mark. We have not lived according to God’s holy standard. We cannot ever achieve holiness for ourselves. Some might claim that God overlooks our sin. But God’s just law says otherwise: “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). What we deserve is not only physical death but also the death of separation from God’s love forever.

Although God’s law reveals frightening news, it is still God’s gracious gift to us. Like a mirror shows us when we are dirty and in need of a shower, so God’s law shows us that we are sinful and in need of a Savior.

With the other main teaching of his Word, the gospel, God tells us that he has given us the Savior we need—his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was our substitute under God’s law. He obeyed all of God’s requirements in our place. He received the penalty we deserve for our failure to obey God’s commands. He paid the price for us fully when God abandoned him on a cross. God accepted Jesus’ payment for us. We can be certain of it because God raised him from the dead.

Because of Jesus’ work, God has declared the whole world “not guilty.” That does not mean, however, that all people will enjoy the glory of heaven. Those who reject God’s gift in unbelief do not receive the benefits of God’s gift. They move on in life without God’s forgiveness and will stand before God without the gift he freely gives in Jesus. Those who trust Jesus, however, receive all the blessings of God’s gracious declaration. These blessings include forgiveness, peace with God, power for godly living, comfort throughout this life, and eternal life with God in glory.

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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 ANNUAL MEETING**

**![C:\Users\CL\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\VALDZJFF\meeting[1].gif]()**

**ANNUAL MEETING** was on **Sunday, January 22.** Reports on the various areas of ministry were given and discussed. Among the items on the voters’ meeting portion of the meeting were elections for the church council and adopting a budget for 2017. Copies of the 2016 Annual Report can be found on the Handbell Cabinet in the entryway of the church.

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**Synod Convention Delegate:**

Chuck Landeck has volunteered to be our congregation’s delegate to the 2017 WELS Convention, to be held July 31 through Aug 3 at Luther Prep School in Watertown, WI.

**Treasurer:** Total offerings/income for 2016 amounted to $141,882.85, which was $13,117.15 short of the 2016 budget goal of $155,000. The 2017 Budget goal was set for $155,000. There was a slight change in the percentages for the Unified Budget, with evangelism removed as a separate line item in the budget and the 1.5% it was allotted going into the General Fund, now 75.5% of the Unified Budget. Evangelism expenses will be paid from the General Fund. The Debenture Fund has become the Building Maintenance Fund. The entire treasurer’s report can be found in the annual report.

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**Elections:** the following were elected to these positions for a three year term: Treasurer: Joel Schumann; Elder: Kevin Koehler ; Trustee: Greg Taylor. May the Lord bless these men and the congregation through their service.

**Trustees:** The trustees reported the two big projects done this past year was the repair of the sewer line for the church, done when the city was repaving Main Street, thus saving the church a considerable amount of money.

 Another project was the repair of one of the boiler, along with some other work, done in December. We thank the Lord that He moved the hearts of his people to make gifts over and above, to cover this project. The bill was paid in January and will show up on next month’s treasurer’s report.

 This year, we plan to have some wood replacement and repair work on the car port of the church. If possible, we may look at replacing some of the worn carpet in the church.

**Upcoming Worship Events**

* Feb 26 – Western Accents from West Lutheran High School will provide the music for the service. (No service on Wed, Feb 22)
* March 26, Salem Youth Handbell Choir to play here at Cross (Aaron Ernst & Brittany Mutterer play in this group)
* Ash Wednesday – Mar 1, 7pm, Lord’s Supper will be celebrated.
* Midweek Lenten Services: Mar 8,15,22,29, Apr 5 – all 7pm (Pastor exchange)
* Maundy Thursday – Apr 13, 7pm, Lord’s Supper will be celebrated.
* Good Friday – Apr 14; 1pm (The Lord’s Supper will be celebrated only at the 1:00 pm service); 7pm
* Easter Apr 16 Sunrise 7am; Festival Worship – 10am

**Lent/Easter Fellowship meals –** starting with March 1, a fellowship meal will be served by a group or organization of the congregation. These are intended to provide an opportunity for fellowship and for convenience. They will go from 5:30-6:30pm on Wednesdays during Lent. Also on Maundy Thursday the Handbells will serve fellowship meal (5:30pm-6:30pm) and an Easter Breakfast will be served by the choir from 8:00 am to 9:30 am.

**The WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts** will take placeJune 13-16, 2017 at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. Pastor Barlow and Chuck Landeck plan to attend.

**Evangelism** Some of the upcoming activities the Evangelism Committee are planning include:

* Rockford Expo – Mar 18, 9am – 1pm at the Rockford High School Gym. We will have a booth there. Watch for your chance to sign up to help .
* Easter Postcards will be sent to all homes in Rockford, inviting to our Easter Worship services.
* Easter for Kids – Apr 8, 10am-12pm - an annual event to which our kids and the kids of the community are invited. Bring kids and also consider volunteering to help.
* Michael Westendorf concert/worship event. We are still working at planning this special music/outreach event.

**Y**outh **U**nder **C**hrist

YUC will be taking a trip to Martin Luther College in New Ulm on Saturday, February 18. We plan on leaving from the church at 11:00 am. The trip will include a tour of the campus, lunch in the MLC Cafeteria and a MLC Men’s Basketball game. We will also deliver a load of food for the MLC Food Bank.

**CROSS LIGHTS**

 Cross LIGHTS will meet in February, on **the 7th at 7:30 pm.**

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**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE FOR FEBRUARY IS**

Debbie Ernst

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

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We wish a Happy Birthday for those members of Cross who celebrate this month. If we missed your birthday contact someone in the church office! Thanks.

2 – Vicki Ernst

7 – Connie Brown

10 – Kyle Bogart

12 – Avie Heibel

13 – Brodi Rux

13 – Zachary Swanson

13 – Joseph Van De Walker

16 – Jack Wandersee

17 – Jason Dolder

18 – Sydney Swanson

19 – Treyton Weege

20 – Jessica Millard

20 – Audrey Rux

22 – Jodi Bredeck

24 – Chris Landeck

25 – Joyce Graunke

26- Kylie Jo Lawrance

26 – Stevie Mae Lawrance

27 – John Dolder

28/29 – Christine Hallman

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**FILL A BOTTLE - CHANGE A LIFE**

In the month of February, we will be doing the Fill-a-Baby- Bottle drive for Christian Life Resources’ daughter ministry, New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers, which provides a loving and supportive place for single mothers to start a new life, spiritually and practically. Fill a baby bottle with your spare change or dollar bills and return it to the cradle on the handbell cabinet by the end of February.



**MONDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

**(MAMBS)**

On his missionary journeys, Paul heard about the Christians in Rome. He wrote his letter to the Romans to strengthen their faith so that they might help him spread the gospel farther to the west. For over two thousand years, Christians have treasured Romans for its clear and pure presentation of God's grace to sinners.

 In the Monday Morning Bible Study , we are studying Paul’s Letter to the Romans. We meet at 9:30 am in the church basement fellowship hall. Come and join us for this interesting study. All are welcomed. And the coffee will be on!!

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**Sunday Morning Bible Study**

**10:15 am.**

This engaging video Bible Study presents true stories of Christians facing Islamic extremists around the world. Each lesson will include a15-minute video with interviews with persecuted Christians as well as commentary and teaching . We explore themes like joy, perseverance, forgiveness and faithfulness, that will inspire you to grow deeper in your relationship with Christ and witness with boldness and joy to your friends, family and co-workers.

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**MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY**

MBBS will meet on February 18 at 9:00 am We will study *Lesson thirteen - of our study “Hard Sayings of Jesus” Hard Sayings . . . So That We Won't Hear?* The breakfast menu will include French toast.

**NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION**

 **Lutheran Mobile Clinic**

**AFRICA CALLING:**

 The Central Africa Medical Mission is accepting applications for Nurse-in-Charge for the Lutheran Mobile Clinic (Malawi) for a 3 year term of service. The nurse-in-charge must be an RN with clinic or hospital experience. The nurse-in-charge supervises clinic staff and maintains all clinic functions. Preferred applicants are single females due to living arrangements. The term of service will begin in November 2017. Because employment permits for Malawi take almost a year to process, candidates will be selected in early 2017.

 All applicants must be in good standing within WELS or ELS membership.

An application may be obtained by contacting Beth Evans (evans.bc57@yahoo.com) or Linda Liesener (cammcontact@charter.net )

**Lutheran Mobile Clinic**

**(CAMM – Malawi, Africa) January 2017**

*Psalm 126:2 “Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”*

Imagine never receiving any education about brushing your teeth. Imagine never being aware that you shouldn’t use regular soap to brush your teeth. Imagine never having a toothbrush. Imagine the pain of a toothache with only Tylenol to relieve the pain. Imagine the 2-3 hour ride in a crowded bus to get to the hospital so you can see a dentist. This is the situation many Malawians face concerning their dental hygiene.

Lutheran Mobile Clinic sees many cases of toothaches and other dental issues and the only thing we can do at our clinic sites is to prescribe Tylenol and refer them to a hospital about 2-3 hours away. Because of this issue, LMC decided to collaborate with an international dental organization called TeethSavers to bring dental education and screenings to the patients we serve at our four clinic sites in rural Lilongwe.

Each clinic started off with a devotion lead by a church elder, as we do every other clinic day. Our usual health education was replaced by oral hygiene education provided by a TeethSavers representative. They discussed the proper technique for brushing teeth, how often to brush, what they should use to brush and when to seek further dental care. TeethSavers then answered questions by the patients. During the education portion of the presentation, children and young adults were separated from the larger group to receive a slightly modified health talk. After their education, they received a toothbrush and were screened for other needed services like teeth cleanings, fillings, and tooth extraction or removals. TeethSavers aims to save the 6-year molars and therefore targets children 6-18 and young adults. All other patients received a toothbrush and the education.

The response from our patients was overwhelming. They were so happy to receive new information, screenings, and a toothbrush. I saw so many smiles and heard many kind words from the patients we saw. I had a Malawian man from Suzi come up to me and personally thank me for bringing such a great service to them. The passage from Psalms reminds me that it wasn’t me that brought this service, but it is the Lord providing this blessing to them.

One of the highlights of the week was when Chief Kamkadzule of Suzi told TeethSavers and myself that, “This is my first time since my birth to receive such kind of health instructions. I didn’t know anything about oral hygiene.” After the distribution of toothbrushes, he also took some time to talk to the smaller group of children and young adults. He encouraged them to use the information they learned to help them keep their teeth healthy. Having the chief present says a lot about the work the Lutheran Mobile Clinic and TeethSavers are doing together.

In total over 1,300 people received toothbrushes and screenings! TeethSavers was so impressed with the turnout. We plan to continue the collaboration in 6 months and hope to continue growing the services provided. We look forward to sharing the gospel message with those coming to receive our regular care and our new dental services when TeethSavers visit. We thank the many ladies groups and schools that collected over 20,000 toothbrushes and those that helped donate toward the postage to get them to us in Malawi. This generosity assures the program stability for several years. May our mouths be filled with laughter and our tongues shout for joy all the great things the Lord has done for us!

Your Sister in Christ,

Amanda Oswalt

Nurse-In Charge Lutheran Mobile Clinic

Lilongwe, Malawi

**SENIOR FELLOWSHIP**

Senior Fellowship will be going to on a trip to New Ulm on Sunday, February 19 to see :



This is production of MLC Forum. The summary of the play is as follows: *When a radio announcement airs about a recent murder in London, Molly and Giles Ralston think little of it in the busyness of opening up their recently converted guest house, Monkswell Manor. Things begin to get a little strange as an odd group of guests appear. This is capped off with the phone call and appearance of a Sergeant Trotter – sent to Monkswell Manor for the express purpose of catching the murderer, who left a note with the guest house’s address on it at the scene of the crime.  What ensues from here on out is perhaps the most famous murder mystery of all time, but most definitely holds its own as the longest continuously running show in history*

 The cost is $8 a person. We will be car pooling, leaving from church around 11:30 am. Sign up in the entryway to attend.