

Cross Words

Monthly Newsletter of Cross Ev. Lutheran Church

March 2013 Volume 13, Issue 3

***I Need More…GOOD NEWS***



 Indeed we live in frazzled and frustrated times. Just turn on the nightly news. So frequently we are given reports of events that have devastated property and lives, are told about individuals that have deviated from law and order, and hear of other stories that definitely dampen our spirits. On a regular basis, most of the news is not good news, and a depressed sigh first finds solace in the silence of a turned-off television.

 Turns out, though, that we don’t have to turn on a TV to know that; we don’t even need to be near it. As our consciences rerun the past, we see where our own deviations have had a devastating impact and, as a direct result, our spirits are dampened and depressed. Even life-long Christians feel the sting of past sins as their consciences cry a guilty testimony. That’s the “news” we know by nature. That’s God’s Law on sinful hearts, and that’s why stricken hearts crave more good news.

 The calm to the craving is not attained by turning off; we get it by tuning in. The answer is not in blocking out God’s Word or dulling our consciences by making poor excuses. The solution is still found in what God’s good news says to every individual—even to you and to me. The calm, the promise, the solution remains the message of the gospel! Hearts are calmed at the message of Christ for us! And it’s in that message the Apostle Paul, a very real sinner, would have sinners still take comfort and confidence. As he lifted Timothy’s eyes and heart to the grace of the cross, so he lifts ours: “Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst” (1 Timothy 1:16).

 Craving more good news? Forgiven sinner, tune in to the Savior who carried your every sin! See him in his Word! Redeemed believer, tune in to the gospel—God’s good news that quiets sin’s accusations! Hear that saving message! Beloved child of God, tune in to the trustworthy message of the Bible and let your heart sigh with thanksgiving.

 Jesus came to save sinners. Jesus came to save you! That’s the good news! Crave it. Enjoy it. And stay tuned in!

**THE VISIBLE CHURCH**

Teaching Everything God Commands

 At first it was just a spot by the lock on the car trunk. Gradually it spread until the metal was eaten through. Eventually the lock fell in and the trunk became useless. That’s how rust works.

 False teaching is something like that rust. It may begin with disregard for some portion of God’s Word that doesn’t please. It may spring from the human mind that is conceited enough to think it can judge what is and what isn’t God’s Word. Human reason, public opinion, and scientific theory, like rust, attack God’s infallible Word. Rust doesn’t stop to think about the metal it attacks. Nor do false teachers think of what they are doing to God’s Word. But to attack any part of God’s Word is ultimately to  attack its central teaching—of how God paid for the sins of the world through the atoning work of his Son. To lose part of God’s saving Word is to decrease the impact of all  of it. Yet there are many false teachers out there.

 What are we to think of those false teachers and the churches they lead? Are we saying there are no members of God’s church in visible churches that teach falsely? Of course not. Where the gospel message is present in some form, the Spirit will be at work in the hearts of people. But we are saying that what the church teaches is important.

 The apostle Paul not only said, “I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2). He also stated, “I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the **whole will of God**” (Acts 20:27). Paul knew what “rust” could do to God’s Word. He understood that to preach Christ crucified was to proclaim everything God has entrusted to us in his Word. Jesus said it too. Shortly before his ascension, he told his disciples of all time, “[Teach] them to obey **everything** I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20). Note, he didn’t say “some things” or “the things you think are important” but “everything.”

When I choose a church, I’m choosing a group of Christians with whom I will approach God’s throne in prayer, with whom I will sing his praises and extol his glory, and with whom I will receive my Savior’s body and blood. Within that group, God’s saving Word will be proclaimed to me and by me. I will choose a church to strengthen me in life, to comfort me in distress, and to prepare me for death and heaven. I want my membership in a church that teaches and stands for what I believe and stand for also.

 In short, I’m saying that I want a church that treasures and preserves the truth.

© 2012 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Scripture is taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.®

**NEWS FROM CHURCH**

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:**

***Baptisms –*** In February, two children were made members of the Kingdom of God through the washing of Holy Baptism. Aubree Ann Beyer, infant daughter of Andy and Carrie (Peterson) Beyer was baptized on February 17. Theo Harvey Millard, infant son of Zachary and Jessica( Heibel) Millard was baptized on February 24. Please remember these little ones in your prayers, that the Lord will preserve them in their baptismal grace.

***Reaffirmation of Faith*** On Sunday, March 3 (God-willing and weather permitting) Stacey Kettenacker will be received as a communicant member of our congregation through reaffirmation of faith. Stacey is the daughter of Sandy Lindbo and sister of Mike and Mark Kettenacker. May the Lord bless her membership.

**ROCKFORD EXPO – MARCH 16, 9AM – 1PM**

Our congregation is again hosting a booth display at the Rockford Expo, held at the Rockford Community Center on ***Saturday, March 16, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.*** We are looking for volunteers to help with the booth, greeting people, passing things out, etc. If you are willing to help, please sign up on the sheet in the entryway of the church.

**“CHANGE FOR LIFE”**

Our congregation is participating in a “Change” For Life drive, with the proceeds to help support the ministry of “New Beginnings – A Home For Mothers (Associated with Christian Life Resources) . Empty baby bottles are available on a table in the entryway. Please take one a fill it with your loose change and return it to the cradle on March 24. To learn more about this unique ministry, go to [www.HomeforMothers.com](http://www.HomeforMothers.com).

**TRUSTEE -** Steve Taylor was appointed to fill the vacant position of trustee until the next elections at the Annual Meeting in January 2014. May the Lord bless Steve and the congregation through his service.

**AUDIT FOR 2012 –**  The Audit Committee completed their work of auditing the treasurer’s books for 2012. Everything was found to be in good order.

**CHURCH USE POLICY**  The church council appointed Doug Roush, Dennis Goneau and the pastor to study and re-work the proposed church Use Policy that was tabled at the annual meeting.

**BLECK PROPERTY DONATION** After discussion with Alfred and Laddess Bleck, concerning the proposed donation of 20 acres of land at two possible sites, for use in building a new church or school, it was decided, at the requests of the Bleck’s, to bring the matter again to the congregation and voters, for discussion and final vote. This will be done at the April congregation meeting (date to be announced).

 **CROSS LIGHTS**

![C:\Users\church office\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\L71EIPC1\MC900390900[1].wmf]()

 On Tuesday, March 5, Cross LIGHTS

will have it’s monthly meeting, from

7:30-8:30 pm. All the women of the

congregation are invited to join in the

fellowship and spiritual growth

.

 **MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY**

The March meeting of the Men’s Breakfast Bible Study will take place on Saturday, March 9 at 9:00 am. The menu will include Biscuits & Sausage gravy. We will continue our study – ***How Can They Teach That?*** *(And Still Claim to Believe The Bible).* Lesson 5 deals with Abortion and Early Life Issues.

![C:\Users\church office\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\GIZRWH4T\MC900234399[1].wmf]()

 This is a good opportunity to review what the Bible teaches on these subjects, and how some twist or ignore what God’s Word says.

**Favorite Easter Hymn Service** In the April 14 worship service (along with the preceding Wednesday) we will have a “Favorite Easter Hymn” service. In order to selection the hymns for the service, a survey will be taken during the months of February and March. Fill out the survey form that can be found in the entryway and return it to the designated box .

**HOLY COMMUNION SCHEDULE** During the month of March , the Sacrament of the Altar will be celebrated on Sunday, March 3, Sunday, March 17, Maundy Thursday, March 28 and in the 1:00 pm on Good Friday .

![C:\Users\church office\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\7DB5T4OV\MC900435101[1].wmf]()

 **SENIOR FELLOWSHIP** The Senior Fellowship will be serving the March 13 Lenten Supper for the March Activity. We will be serving Weenies & Beans. All senior’s are invited to come and help with these activity. We will meet at 4:30 pm on the 13th for set. We start serving at 5:30 pm.



 Senior Fellowship is also sponsoring a trip to the Plymouth Playhouse on Sunday, April 14, 2:00 pm to see “Ring of Fire” - the Muisc of Johnny Cash. The Jukebox Musical based on the music of Johnny Cash. Through words and music, “Ring of Fire” honors and brings to life a remarkable musical legend – Johnny Cash. Full of love and emotion, humor and empathy, Ring of Fire: The Music of Johnny Cash pays tribute to the legendary Man in Black with dance, comedy, stories, tragedy and love.

 Tickets are $27. There will also be opportunity to have dinner after the play at the Green Mill Restaurant. Sign up at Church

###  Breakables

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

**EASTER FOR KIDS On Saturday, March 23, 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm** the Evangelism Committee is hosting the annual **“Easter For Kids”,** to be held here at the church. This fun event is for children, preschool through 6th grade. It is not just for the kids of our congregation, but is especially an outreach opportunity – a chance to invite children from unchurched families in your neighborhood, your kids friends, and relatives. The event is free. It includes refreshments, games (including an Easter egg hunt!), crafts and the Easter story. To sign up your kids or any one else, use the sign-up sheet at church, or go to the website [www.crosslutheranwels.org](http://www.crosslutheranwels.org) or call 763-477-5981 or 4767-5292. *Also, watch for opportunities to help with donations or volunteering to help.*

### All I Need To Know

 A pastor decided to have his confirmation class learn Psalm 23, one of the most quoted texts from the Holy Bible.
 He gave the kids a month to memorize the whole chapter. One of the girls was really excited about it, but she simply couldn't memorize the Psalm. Although she practiced hard, she could hardly get past the first few lines.
 So the day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation and that little girl was nervous.
 When her turn came, she stepped up to the microphone and proudly said, "The Lord is my Shepherd and that's all I need to know!"



**NEWS FROM WEST**

 

**BOOSTERS & BENEFACTORS NIGHT:** West Lutheran High School will be hosting a "Booster and Benefactors Appreciation Night" on Saturday, March 16, beginning at 6:30pm.  Appetizers, wine and other refreshments will be served.  All that are associated with the West ministry are invited to attend.   The agenda is simple: Hearty appetizers, wine, other refreshments, visiting with friends, light musical entertainment, an update from the principal, special guest speaker(s), and special recognitions – including recognizing Mr. Jensen for 25 years in the teaching ministry.  If you did not receive an invitation and would like to attend this event, please call the West office 763-509-9378 or email Ruth Lubansky at rlubansky@wlhs.net and an invitation will be sent.  Many thanks to our parents, friends, and our association mem bers for their support!

****

The overall theme for this year’s midweek Lenten services is “Names of Wondrous Love.” In this series, we see how God’s plan of salvation unfolded during Lent through a discussion of some of the names for Jesus derived from Scripture.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **DATE** | **TEXT, THEME & PREACHER** | **SINGING** | **SERVE** |
| 3/6/20Midweek 4 | JOHN 13:33-37KINGPASTOR PAUL MARGGRAF | CHOIR | SUNDAY SCHOOLTOMATO SOUP & GRILLED CHEESE |
| 3/13/13Midweek 5 | JOHN 18:3-12IMMANUELPASTOR DENNIS STRONG | HANDBELLS | SENIOR FELLOWSHIPWEENIES & BEANS |
| 3/20/13Midweek 6 | JOHN 19:16-18CHRIST CRUCIFIEDPASTOR JAMES GRABITSKE | LADIES CHOIR | CHURCH COUNCILTACOS |
| 3/28/13Maundy Thursday | **Sermon Text:** Revelation 5:6-10**Sermon Theme:** Names of Wondrous Love—THE LAMB | CHOIR | HANDBELLSMASTACOLLI HOT DISH |
| 3/29/13Good Friday | TENEBRAE SERVICE – A WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOWS |  |  |
| 3/31/13Easter Sunday | **Sermon Text:** John 20:1,2,11-18**Sermon Theme:** Names of Wondrous Love—THE LIGHT | CHOIR | CHOIREASTER BREAKFAST |

**News From The Central Africa Medical Mission**

Chaka chatsopano!

    God has brought LMC safely to this New Year.  Thank you to all who sent us personal Christmas (and birthday) greetings and gifts.  It was truly overwhelming.  For several weeks, every time we opened the mailbox, we were greeted with a stack of cards.

     This New Year has already seen an increase in the number of patients at our clinics.  The rainy season is fully upon us, and that means more malaria, more colds, and more respiratory illnesses.  This month, clinic saw its first cholera patient in over two years.  Any patients with cholera are directed to a government facility for treatment because the illness is so contagious.  We pray this was an isolated case.

     Although the number of cases of malaria has greatly increased this last month, we have well-stocked shelves in our pharmacy and feel prepared to treat the patients.  We are thankful for the timely and abundant deliveries of malaria test kits and medication from USAID.

     We hear of the frigid weather the Midwest has been experiencing lately and are grateful for the warmth here.  This month, though, we had Malawi’s version of a snow day.  It had rained all night in the area around Suzi, which made the roads very slippery.  There is a stretch of road that comes to a peak in the middle and slopes severely on the sides.  We all stepped out of the ambulance so that our driver could traverse the bad area of road.  As we watched, the ambulance slid toward the ditch, nearly tipping over.  Though we were not actually stuck, our driver was concerned that any movement would cause the ambulance to slide completely into the ditch or to tip over.  The men were able to get some leverage under the tires, and our driver backed the ambulance out of the tough spot.  There was really no way forward.

Plan B was to back track and take another route.  However, that route had a narrow bridge without any guardrails, and we were told that there was water flowing over the bridge.  The only safe plan seemed to be to return home for the day and pray for better roads next time.  I felt sad for all those people who would not be helped by us this week, but it is not smart to endanger our own lives in the process of helping them.

     On the evening of the 10th of January, we received a phone call from our gardener.  His wife was in labor, and they needed a ride to the hospital.  It was truly a dark and stormy night.  In the two hours we were gone from home, we picked up the Chirwas, drove them to the hospital, learned that Mrs. Chirwa had delivered a healthy baby girl, then we dropped Mr. Chirwa at home again.  If we had not been available to them, they would have ridden bicycle trough the pouring rain.  It is doubtful Mrs. Chirwa would have been at the hospital in time to deliver.  We are thankful mom and baby Tiwonge are doing well.

     The Malawi Kwacha continues the slide it began about six months ago.  This really helps our budget because the US dollar goes farther, but it is really affecting the Malawians.  The cost of living is going up across the board, but wages are not increasing accordingly.  We pray that the economy levels off soon and brings some stability into the country.

     We appreciate all your prayers and support for us and for our patients in the villages.  May God continue to bless the work of Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi throughout this New Year!

Your sister in Christ, - Maria Reese



Ambulance stuck on the way to Suzi