**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

**April 2017 Volume 17, Issue 4**

**The Bible Is to Be Used**

The Lord directed Philip to go down the road to Gaza (Acts 8:26). On the way he met an official from Ethiopia. The man was sitting in his chariot and reading from the Old Testament book of Isaiah. He asked Philip what the prophet meant in a certain passage. “Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus” (Acts 8:35). In that conversation about Jesus, God’s Spirit gave the Ethiopian saving faith and a desire for Baptism.

By using the Bible to introduce the man to Jesus, Philip was carrying out Jesus’ Great Commission for his followers. Jesus has also given us the same mission: make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them. He has also graciously equipped us for this mission just as he equipped Philip. He has given us the powerful, effective, life-giving tool of his Word. He has given us the Bible.

Sitting in my garage is an impressive power tool. The owner’s manual describes all the different features of this tool and a list of beautiful furniture I can build with it. I have never built any of the furniture on that list. The problem isn’t the tool. The problem is that I’ve let that tool sit and gather dust in the garage. I haven’t made time to use it.

God has given us a great tool. But the Bible isn’t meant to sit on a shelf and gather dust. God has given his Word for us to use, for our own benefit and for the benefit of the people he places into our lives. So we use the Bible to teach our children the history of God’s saving work. We operate schools where the Bible is the foundation of the curriculum. We share Bible-based devotions with our friends and relatives. We invite neighbors to listen to Bible-based sermons with us. We study the Scriptures so that we are always prepared to give an answer to those who ask us about the hope we have.

Trust that God will bless your use of his Word just as he blessed Philip’s use of his Word. Expect God’s blessings because of his promise: “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10,11).

© 2016 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved. Scripture is taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®.



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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.

****

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:** Church Yard Cleaning will be on ***Saturday, April 29, starting at 10:00 am.*** Please come and help with this project. Bring rakes, shovels & other tools for church yard cleaning.

 In-door church cleaning will be the following Saturday, May 6, also at 10:00 am.

 The Trustees will be seeking suggestions for colors to paint the women’s rest rooms.

 The trustees will be reviewing a video of the church roof (taken by Jim Reader’s amazing flying machine!) to try to determine if it needs attention.

**Elders:** The elders are reviewing the WELS Commission on Congregational Counseling’s Self-Assessment and Adjustment Program, which helps a congregation access and evaluate its ministry, to determine health and strength in key areas and makes suggestions on how to adjust ministry. This is offered by the synod for a fee. The elders will make a recommendation to the council.

**Upcoming Worship Events**

* Because the pastor will be attending the MN District Spring Pastors’ Conference in Springfield, MO from April 24-26, the will ***be NO worship on Wednesday, April 26.***

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

* 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.

**April Meetings:**  Because of Holy Week services, the April Church Council Meeting will be held on April 20 at 7:00 pm.

 The April Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 30 at 10:15 am.

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

Sunday, April 23 will be YUC Sunday – Bible Study at 10:15 am and exciting activity to follow!

**CROSS LIGHTS**

 Cross LIGHTS will meet in April, on **the 4th at 7:30 pm. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.**

****

**Saturday, April 8, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**Website:** [**www.crosslutheranwels.org**](http://www.crosslutheranwels.org)

**For Kids Preschool through 5th Grade**

*Crafts – Games – Egg Hunt – Song & the Easter Story*

*Sign up at church or email* *Office@crosslutheranwels.org*

 *or call 477-5981*

**Free!**

**![C:\Users\CL\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\AP6Y303D\cartoon_cupcake_photosculpture-p153575797626610380qj7y_210[1].jpg]()**

**LWMS HANNAH CIRCUIT’S 2ND ANNUAL CUPCAKE SUNDAY:** The bakers and decorators that brought you the scrumptious cupcakes last year have agreed to put their aprons back on to bring you more cupcake delights! On **Sunday, April 2nd**, cupcakes will be available at church and distributed for a free-will donation , giving you the opportunity to support your local LWMS Send-One-Sister Program.

**MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY**

****

On April 22, we will continue our new study, ***“The Word Endures: Lessons From Luther, Yesterday and Today”*** We will finish off the first lesson, *Christian Freedom in the Cause of Reform*, and then begin Lesson 2, *Teach the Word to Children.* The breakfast menu will include pancakes.



**NEWS FROM WEST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL**

The West Lutheran High School **General Board Meeting**  will be on **Sunday,  April 9th at 7pm** in the choir room at West. The agenda items will include the following: Reports from the Committees, 2017/18 Budget approval and Board of regents elections

****

**CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION**

**Lutheran Mobile Clinic (CAMM) Lilongwe, Malawi March, 2017**

“*Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails.” (Proverbs 19:21)*

Usually at the beginning of a New Year, we talk about changes we’d like to focus on in the upcoming year—how we’d like to better our work, our lives, and ourselves. We are usually good about accepting and implementing changes in the first few months, but sometimes we lose sight of those goals or lose interest. And sometimes, changes are thrust upon us and we are left to deal with them.

LMC has had a year full of changes and it is just the beginning of March. We are hiring a new staff member, the District Health Office in Lilongwe has withdrawn its willingness to supply LMC with some key clinic supplies, and we’ve gotten a new puppy! None of these were part of LMC’s New Year’s Resolutions, nor were they really part of our plans. The old Yiddish Proverb “We plan, God laughs” comes to mind as does the verse from Jeremiah (29:11), “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Keeping the Jeremiah verse in my mind helps keeps the changes in perspective.

Currently LMC is looking to promote a nurse to the Head Nurse role and looking to hire another nurse to fill the vacancies on staff. We pray for a smooth transition for all involved: the hiring team to select the right candidates for the positions available and the employees to faithfully fill their new roles. We know that LMC’s future is in God’s hands—where He leads, we will follow.

After Christmas, I received notice that the District Health Office/Malawi’s Ministry of Health in Lilongwe who we work closely with, would, effective immediately, not be able to assist us with providing medications and supplies. The DHO provides LMC with basic supplies such as safety boxes for our needles, gloves for seeing patients, and medications used to treat epilepsy patients, antenatal mothers, and malaria patients just to name a few. This means that LMC will now have to purchase these supplies and medications out of our donations, which we were not anticipating. But we lean on the knowledge that God will supply our every need (Philippians 4:19).

We had two guard dogs, Julius (an 11 year old German Shepherd) and Mada (a 3 year old Great Dane/Mastiff Mix). As Julius is getting older, we wanted to have a trained replacement ready when needed. The new puppy, Mkango, is an 8 week old Mastiff puppy, trying to find his place in the LMC house. Mada is quite taken with him, thinking she is his mother, following him around and gently playing with him. Julius, at 11 yrs old, is far less keen. We know as things calm down at the LMC house, we will all adjust to life with a puppy, life with three dogs, and the new tempo of the house.

With changes comes anxiety. Anxiety about hiring and promoting the right people, anxiety about having enough money in the budget to cope without DHO support, and anxiety about the puppy getting along with the other dogs and people on the LMC property. Anxiety can be exhausting but we can find peace in the scriptures. Time and again we are told not to worry. The Lord’s will be done. He will provide. Trust Him. We are grateful for such a gracious, generous God. As this Lenten season reminds us, one who loves us enough to sacrifice His own Son for us, one who takes care of every need, one who wipes away our tears, and one who calms our fears.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which, transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Your Sister in Christ,

****