**Cross****Words**

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

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**August 2018 Volume 18, Issue 8**

# God doesn’t need my money, does he?

Can’t God take care of the church without my money? He made all things. Why does he need my money?

That poses an interesting question, doesn’t it? Why does God need our money? But maybe that’s the wrong question. Perhaps the question should be more like “Why do we need to give our money to God?”

The early Christians didn’t ask why God needed their money. They pleaded for the privilege to share their money. They gave themselves first to the Lord, then their offerings followed. They gave to God because he had given them so much. Not only did they have forgiveness, victory over death, and eternal life, but God had also given them their money and possessions. Giving was an expression of gratitude to God for all his gifts. The early Christians were generous because God was so generous.

God could fill collection plates like he filled the nets with fish on the Sea of Galilee. But God wants to give us opportunities to show how much we appreciate what he has done for us. “Put God First” is more than just an empty motto. It has real application when we take the checkbook and make our contribution.

God doesn’t want all our money. He simply asks for some of it—enough to show how much we love him. He gives us the freedom to set our own goals. Then he challenges us to do better, just as he stretches us to grow in other ways too. The apostle Paul wrote, **“Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete** **earnestness . . . see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (**2 Corinthians 8:7).

It’s true, God doesn’t need our money. But we need to answer some important questions every time we bring our offerings to church. Do our offerings put God first? Do they show that we really appreciate all God has done for us? We answer the questions every time we put our offerings in the collection plate. When our hearts put God first, we joyfully give.

[](http://www.timeofgrace.org/)

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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

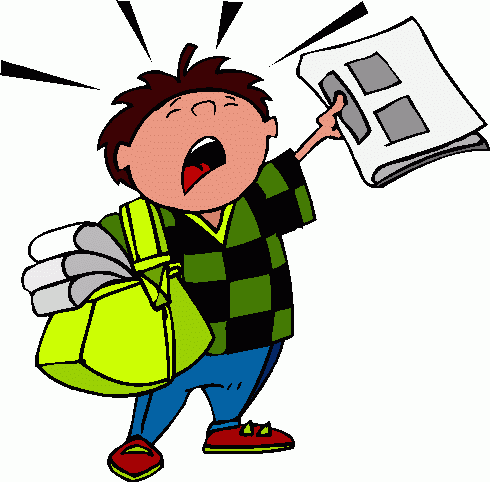
**O**utreach to the community, nation, and world through our prayers and offerings by

**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.

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**NEWS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Worship Notes:**

***Festival Of Friendship*** On Sunday, August 19, we will have a Festival of Friendship Sunday. The purpose of this day is to encourage inviting the un-churched to come and hear about the Savior. There will be a special worship service that day **(10:00 am)** featuring the music of Stephen Bautista. After the service there will be a cook-out lunch and then at 1:00 pm, Stephen will put on a concert, featuring songs that were not part of the worship service. (There will also be opportunity to purchase Stephen’s CD’s)

**START THINKING ABOUT WHO YOU WILL INVITE –**

**Family – Friends – Neighbors –**

**Co-Workers – People Who Recently Moved In?**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

Because of the Festival of Friendship on Aug 19, the schedule for Holy Communion is August will be Aug 1&5 and Aug 22&26.

**The *Lutheran Home Worship/Alzheimer’s Seminar*** has been rescheduled for Sept. 23.

***Mission Festival*** will be observed on Oct 14. This will be combined with the LWMS Hannah Circuit Fall Rally. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for details.

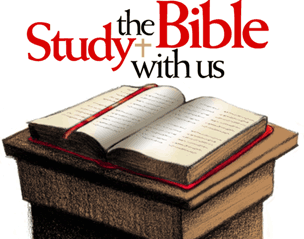
**Evangelism: *The following outreach activities have been planned by the Evangelism Committee)***

1. **River Day Days Parade** We will again have a church float in the annual River Days Parade on Sunday, Aug 12. The float will promote our VBS and the Festival of Friendship Sunday. We will again distribute bottled water along the parade route. ***(We are taking donations of cases of bottled water – leave by the church office door.)*** We also plan on having a free lemonade stand on the church front lawn during the parade. We will be looking for some volunteers for the lemonade stand.
2. **VBS** – Our annual VBS will take place Aug 13-15, 9am-4pm. The theme will be *Space Station Salvation* It is for children pre-school thru 5th grade*.* A registration sheet will be posted. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with teaching, arts & crafts and lunch and snacks. There will also be opportunity to donate food items and other things needed.

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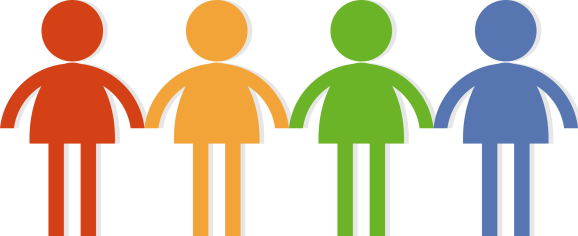
**MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY**

August 18th , (9am) the MBBS will meet, continuing “Timely Topics, Timeless Truths (set 1). Our lesson will deal with: **Broke to Bankrupt: Does my faith let me file?** The breakfast menu will include pancakes. **ALL CONFIRMED MEN IN THE CONGREGATION ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGES TO ATTEND!**

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**WOMEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY**

On Saturday, August 25 at 9:00 am the Women’s Breakfast Bible Study will take place. We will continue our study on prayer with Lesson 5 - ***Pray Sincerely***The breakfast will include pancakes **ALL WOMEN OF THE CONGREGATION ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**



**CROSS LIGHTS**

Cross LIGHTS will meet **on Tuesday, August 8 at 7:00 pm**.. All the ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

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**Senior Fellowship**

On Thursday, August 16, the Senior Fellowship will be going on a tour of the Crow River Winery in Hutchinson. A sign-up sheet will be posted. Watch the bulletin for details.

**NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICAN MEDICAL MISSION**

[](http://www.camm.us/)

**July 2018 - Lutheran Mobile Clinic Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM**) **- Malawi**

Earlier this month Beth and I returned to the United States for a very brief visit to attend our youngest son’s graduation. We stayed in Thiensville, Wisconsin with Beth’s brother Pastor Kurt Ebert and while there, we attended a CAMM fundraising rummage sale held at his church - Christ Alone in Thiensville. When we spoke to the folks who were running the sale, they wondered how the $3,000, typically raised by the sale, might be spent. That question started me thinking that perhaps many of the groups and individuals who support CAMM might like to know how their gifts and donations are used. So, for those who are curious, here is a little Lutheran Mobile Clinic by numbers:

4,000 to 5,000: That’s how many patients we have seen on average per month over the last 3 months. We are seeing the number of Malaria patients drop off as we move into the dry season (winter) here.

$3,000: Will pay our fuel bill for around 5 months. We operate clinics in four Villages each of which is about a 45 to 50-mile round trip from the house. We have two rugged Toyota Landcruisers. These are the ambulances of choice over here, they can carry up to 12 people plus all of our equipment and medications over some very rough roads. As you might suspect, they are thirsty beasts.

$3000, will also pay for about 6 months of vehicle maintenance. The dirt roads are hard on vehicles and parts are not cheap.

$1000: Will pay salaries and some benefits for all of our Malawian staff for about a week. We have twenty-one people on the payroll –nurse/midwives, clinician, nutritionist, registrar, driver, clinic maintenance men, clinic nutrition workers, guards, a gardener and a house keeper.

$350: Will pay for our pharmaceutical supplies for a week. Malaria medications are provided by USAID and vaccinations are provided by the Malawi government. All other medications are paid for by the clinic and provided for free.

200: That’s roughly how many pill bottles we hand out a week. We use them for liquid medications that we buy in larger bottles and then pour into the smaller pill bottles that are sent from the United States.

$100: Will provide us with a 3-month supply of maize and soy for our nutrition program.

$75: Will pay the weekly salary of a nurse/midwife who has bachelor’s degree in nursing.

$50: Will provide infant formula to three babies for a month. As part of our nutrition program we currently provide infant formula to 6 orphan babies who are under 6 months.

$20: Will pay for the quarterly gift given to each of our four clinic volunteers for their help in running clinic. The gifts consist of tea, rice, soap, salt, Vaseline, washing powder, sugar, matches and oil – mundane gifts by US standards but valuable in a Malawian Village.

$7: Will pay for a locum Nurse/midwife for a day. When our staff is on vacation or sick, clinic operations must go on, so we hire fill in (locum) staff for the day.

Our annual budget for in-country operations is a little about $130,000. In-country does not include Beth or my payroll. We are a low cost, low overhead operation dedicated to showing Gods love and serving our Lord by providing quality healthcare to the people of Msambo, Suzi, Mwalaulomwe and Thunga Villages, and with God’s blessing and your gifts we are doing just that.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Gary Evans (Lutheran Mobile Clinic Administrator)

**CROSS PLANNED GIVING COMMITTEE**

Beginning in August, WELS Investment Funds (WIF) will be offering a new investment option designed specifically to meet the objectives of endowments.

The new portfolio, WELS Endowment Fund, will comprise 75 percent equity and 25 percent fixed income. In addition to this new option, WELS Investment Funds will continue to offer the WELS Balanced Fund, WELS Equity Fund, and WELS Income Fund.

On multiple occasions Vanguard Institutional Advisory Services® (Vanguard), WELS Investment Fund’s investment consultant, presented reports to the WIF board on alternative asset allocations for endowment funds. The reports identified the expected return and volatility statistics for various asset allocations over a 10-year and 30-year time horizon. Vanguard noted the 75 percent equity and 25 percent fixed income allocation was commonly used for endowment funds, and after a thorough evaluation, the board determined this option could benefit WELS ministries’ investments.

WELS Investment Funds offers four investment portfolios:

* NEW WELS Endowment Fund–75% equity, 25% fixed income
* WELS Balanced Fund–60% equity, 40% fixed income
* WELS Equity Fund–100% equity
* WELS Income Fund–100% fixed income

WELS Investment Funds provides cost-effective, professionally managed investment portfolios exclusively for WELS and WELS affiliated ministries. By pooling resources with other congregations, ministries and churches can take advantage of lower-cost, institution-priced investment opportunities



**Festival of Friendship**

**Sunday, August 19th**

**10:00 am Worship**

**Invite Someone to Worship**

**Cook-Out Lunch at 11:30 am**

**Concert at 1:00 pm**

Stephen is a WELS member who used to live in Las Vegas, Nevada, but now travels around the country as a full-time Christian Music Missionary that seeks to "enlighten the lost and encourage the found" with his original, Christ-centered music. Along with his daughter Marissa, Stephen shares his music in a very compelling yet soothing style, while conveying a solid Gospel message.

He tours the country with his wife, their eight "roadschooled" children, and a cat, while living in a travel trailer they pull behind a Chevy Express van.

Stephen has four Nashville-produced CDs available for purchase at his concerts and worship services. His music is also available online at www.StephenBautistaMusic.com, iTunes, Amazon, and most other online outlets.

Please consider supporting Stephen's music mission by purchasing his CDs and/or contributing a freewill offering that will help him continue spreading the Gospel with his music.

For more information about Stephen's music and upcoming events, visit www.StephenBautistaMusic.com.

You can also get to know Stephen and his family by visiting their travel blog— www.TheTravelBags.com—and their YouTube channel—www.youtube.com/c/thetravelbags.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**TO THE STARS & BEYOND**

**Date: Mon, Aug 13 – Wed, Aug 15**

**Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Preschool - 5th Grade**

**To Register:**

**Sign up at Church or**

**Call: 763-477-5981**

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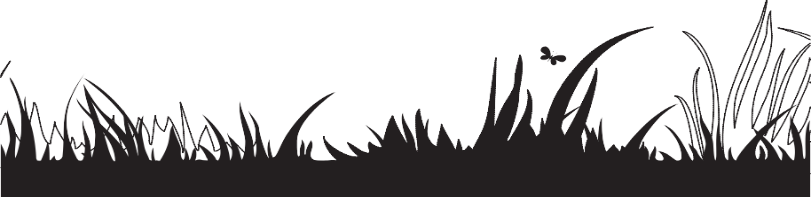
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