



FAITH

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

February
2017
Newsletter

DEVOTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

Martin Luther once said, and probably rightly so, that the Lord's Prayer is the greatest martyr of the church. In other words, it is more often abused, mishandled, and mindlessly recited by Christians and non-Christians alike than anything else. Would you fall into that category? Have there been times that you have said the Lord's Prayer, and when you were finished, knew nothing more about what you said than you did before? Wouldn't we all have to sadly say – "Yes!"

So, let us take a few months to review what it is that we are saying in this, the greatest of all prayers.

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN...

It is essential that we aim our prayers accurately. If we don't, they will never be heard in heaven. We should not just pray to a god (that's not a prayer) or even to the Lord without some very definite knowledge about the Lord God. Jesus tells us – the true God as he has revealed himself to us in the Bible is our Father.

We can talk to him in prayer just as a young child would boldly and confidently talk to a good, loving earthly father at home. There is love, respect, and warmth between the heavenly Father and his dear children. The heavenly Father is not a god with a heart of stone and two deaf ears. He is the God of love and forgiveness. We "are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26).

Therefore, we have great confidence when we address our prayers to "our Father" in heaven. He is the loving Father who sent Jesus Christ to rescue us from the folly of our sin through his death and resurrection.

Our heavenly Father is much wiser than any earthly father could ever be. When we ask him he gives us what is only good and beneficial for our souls. He also lovingly withholds those things that would weaken our faith or endanger the salvation of our souls.

The Bible encourages us, "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). So next time you begin the Lord's Prayer by saying, "Our Father who art in heaven," think about how "with these words God tenderly invites us to believe that he is our true Father and that we are his true children, so that we may pray to him as boldly and confidently as dear children ask their dear father" (Luther's Small Catechism).

Birthdays

Matt Granahan	2-04
Jacob Markhardt	2-06
Brad Markhardt	2-07
Tucker Fatla	2-08
Zachary Mueller	2-15
Dave Kellen	2-17
Greg Fatla	2-19
Jerry Kirchman	2-23
Rilyn Holcomb	2-23
Cody Heller	2-25
Pam Johnson	2-25

Anniversaries

None

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Quarterly Congregation Meeting Minutes, Black River Falls
12:00 PM, January 22, 2017

Opening Devotion/Prayer: The meeting was opened at 12:30 pm with a devotion from 1 Timothy and prayer led by Pastor Neumann.

Opening of Meeting

Overview of Agenda: The Agenda was accepted with addition of loan renewal for new business.

Acceptance of Minutes: The minutes of the October 23, 2016 Congregational meeting were accepted.

Elders Report:

1. Review of membership changes for 2016 as well as ministerial acts was given (see attached Pastor's Council report 1/9/17.)
2. MSC to ratify the acceptance of Sharalyn Hartley into membership.
3. MSC to ratify the transfer of Allison (Everly) Hood to Christ Lutheran Church, North St. Paul, MN.
4. MSC to ratify the transfer of Mitchell Volk to Christ Lutheran Church, North St. Paul, MN.

Special Reports:

Outreach Committee: Brad Markhardt presented an overview of the Faith Vision Timeline for a vision and direction for future outreach activities. A report (attached) summarizing activities and expenses for 2016. 22 activities were promoted at a cost of \$1045. There are currently 6 projected activities for 2017 at a forecasted cost of \$3,000 including hosting the Seminary Choir for Ash Wednesday and Koine July 25. The next Outreach meeting is Feb. 12 at 12:30. All are encouraged to attend. Dale Jessie also reported that Thrivent can provide grants for outreach functions: \$250 per Thrivent member, up to twice per year.

Jesus Cares Ministry: Mark Mueller reported on trying to have the meeting in the group home(s) to make it more easily accessible. Details are being finalized.

Financial Report (attached):

2017 CMO pledge. The Congregational contribution to the CMO in 2016 was \$15037.50 compared to a pledged amount of \$15,000. The Council recommended increasing the pledge to \$15450 for 2017 with the understanding that any additional contributions would be sent to the CMO and if contributions were short of the pledge, the difference would come out of the general fund. MSC to accept the Councils' recommendation for 2017 CMO pledge.

2016 Year End. Treasurer Cody Heller presented a report showing the income and expenses for 2016. The income above expenses was \$1263.21 compared to a forecast of \$4439.64. MSC to accept the 2016 financial report (attached).

Faith Alive Pledge . We are 1/3 through the pledge drive and we have collected 33% the amount pledged (\$75003.17 collected so far of the \$226,276 pledged).

2017 Budget. The 2017 forecast projects income above expenses of loss of \$1766.68 with anticipated increases in envelope and plate offering based on year end statistics for estimated income of \$118,419. MSC to accept the 2017 proposed budget (attached).

Mortgage Loan Renewal. The mortgage for the church is at the 5 year balloon renewal. CEF has already approved our application for the next 5 year term and the congregation needs to approve it. The current interest rate is 4.5 %. The payment is determined based on income (including the housing allowance transfer). The new payment will be \$4160 per month, up from \$3802 per month. The council also shopped around to see if there were better options but this was comparable or better. MSC to accept the loan renewal application.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Election of New Councilman. Garrett Jessie, Jerry Kirchman and Grady Severson agreed to be nominated. Election was held by ballot with Jerry and Grady winning election.

Next meeting is April 30th, 2017 11:00 AM in Cataract.

Closing Prayer/Blessing: MSC to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Recorded by Todd Volk

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes SUMMARY January 9, 2017

A Memorial Service for Roland Wruck will be held on January 28th, 10am. It was moved, seconded and confirmed (MSC) to provide funds for dinner for estimated 6 attendees from Youth Group (activity at Action City). Cody presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$1,263.21 for the year. MSC to accept final financial report for 2016. Cody recommended Luther Association contribution of \$1,100/year remain the same in 2017 – MSC. Cody presented the 2017 budget showing a projected net income of \$413.32 - MSC. Recommendation to the voter's to increase the CMO contribution to \$15,500 - MSC. We reviewed the Usher Duties.

LENT - "Repent: Turn to Jesus"

While Lent doesn't start in February this year, when we turn the calendar to March Ash Wednesday will be upon us. This year, the overall theme for our Lent journey to cross is: "Repent: Turn to Jesus!" This theme flows from the critical questions that occasioned the Ninety-five Theses and thereby the Lutheran Reformation: What is the essence of repentance? Is repentance the act of "doing penance"—making satisfaction for sin? Or is repentance something else entirely? Repentance, the Bible leads us to see, is God's gracious gift to us. The biblical truth is that the believer's entire life is a life of repentance.

Check out March's newsletter for times and dates of our Lenten services. For now, know that we will have just one Ash Wednesday service on March 1 in Black River Falls as the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary choir will be leading us

GIFT CARDS FOR THE MLC FOOD BANK

The Ladies of Faith will be collecting gift cards to send to Martin Luther College for their food bank. We are looking for gift cards of any amount from Hy-Vee, Walmart, Cash Wise or Kwik Trip. If you do not want to get a card but would like to participate, you make write a check made out to MLC Food Bank. The cards or checks can be given to Annette Markhardt or put in the basket on the counter in Cataract. We will be collecting cards until February 19.

LAP QUILT MAKING

The Ladies Aid would like to invite all the ladies of the congregation (men too, if they would like) to a morning and afternoon of lap quilt making in Cataract on February 11, at 9 a.m. Here is what each lady would need to bring: 2 pieces of fabric, 1 1/4 yard each; 2 skeins of DMC floss to match the fabric, or a small skein of yarn; and a dish to pass for a potluck lunch. If you want to bring a sewing machine you can. The batting for the inside of the quilt will be provided. Some ladies will be ironing, some cutting, some sewing, and some tying the quilt tops. In order that enough batting is purchased, please let Judy Sommers know if you plan to attend that day—jasomme@centurytel.net or 608-486-2716.

Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include the seminary choir visit and the live tomb. Our meeting will take place Sunday, February 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.

Faith Teacher's Meeting

The Faith teachers will meet Sunday, February 5, from 10:30-12 in the BRF church building.

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

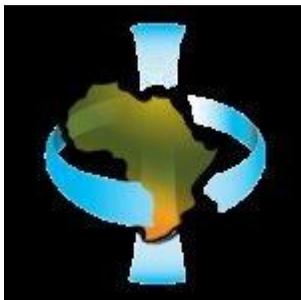


AFRICA CALLING:

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)



THEREFORE, AS WE HAVE OPPORTUNITY, LET US DO GOOD TO ALL PEOPLE, EXPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS.

Galatians 6:10

The Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Chorus at Our Congregation

The news is out: The Seminary Chorus from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is going to present a concert/worship service at our Black River Falls church on Ash Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. The 47 men and their director will be arriving at about 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday to set up equipment and share a meal prepared by our members from 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. The chorus will stay overnight at homes in our congregation and board their coach to travel to their next concert on Thursday at 8:00 a.m.

What can we tell you about the Seminary Chorus? Well, the choir has been making music since 1931 and has presented concerts in almost every state of the Union. Its objective has always been to proclaim God's good news in music, and it does this in a variety of musical styles, old and new. We'll hear voices; wait till you hear 40 future pastors singing their hearts out! We'll also hear instruments: everything from organ and brass to piano, guitars, and drum set. We'll have a chance to stand and sing along on several numbers. The choir's reputation is that its concerts are never dull!

The concert will last about an hour and fifteen minutes, and we'll have a chance to visit with the young men afterwards and at dinner. Be sure to bring your whole family; children love to *see* the choir as well as hear it, so sit close to the front. Invite your friends and neighbors, too. We're sure they will enjoy the experience, and you can introduce them to our church at the same time.

The choir members are coming to our church not only to sing for us, but also to tell us about the school they attend, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. The seminary was founded just before the Battle of Gettysburg, way back in 1863, and ever since has been training men to be pastors in WELS congregations. The seminary is located in Mequon, a suburb of Milwaukee, Wis., but its graduates are serving congregations and missions all around the country and all over the world. Pastor Neumann is a graduate of the seminary, class of 2004. You can learn more about the seminary at its website, www.wls.wels.net.

As we would expect, the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary takes its work of training pastors seriously. Every year it strives to train men to be:

Confessional – who learn to put integrity above popularity and preach and teach “what is in accord with sound doctrine.”

Evangelical – who have a gospel-centered approach to ministry and a love for souls entrusted to their care.

Mission-minded – who have a Christ-like heart for those who are still lost.

Culturally sensitive – who do not put barriers between themselves and the cultures they are called to serve.

Appropriately flexible – who remain committed to the Scriptures but understand that where God has not commanded or forbidden, some things may or must change for the sake of the gospel.

Zealous to nurture and equip the saints – who are eager to serve alongside brothers and sisters in Christ who and strive to be partners in the gospel.

So that tells you something about Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and the Seminary Chorus. Come to the concert/worship service and learn much more!

Please also consider the wonderful opportunity before you to host these young men in your home. They travel in pairs of 2; you may host 2, 4, 6 or even 8 if you have room. They are happy to sleep in the same accommodations you would invite your family and friends to stay in. A ride to your house after church, a breakfast Thursday morning, and a return to church between 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Thursday is what we ask of you.

If you are able to help, contact Dave Kellen in person, by phone at 715-284-4436 or e-mail dbkellen@hotmail.com

Note from the Editor:

As Christians, we struggle daily with temptations of this world. By keeping Christ at the center of our hearts and lives, we can dismiss the temptations of this world and remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ. Sometimes reminders are needed as to why we believe and worship the way we do. This series of articles from the website, www.wels.net, will explain why we believe what we believe and why we teach what we teach. Below are the 3rd and 4th of 29 articles in this series. Please take some time to read the bible verses associated with each article to further your understanding.

What the Bible and Lutherans Teach

3. MAN AND WOMAN

The Bible and Lutherans teach that men and women are a special creation of God. The first man was created from the dust of the earth. The first woman was made from the rib of man. They were created in God's image. This means that they were without sin and had a perfect knowledge of God. That image was destroyed when Adam and Eve first sinned. People have a soul which no other creature has. God gave us rule over all of his creation. Human beings have a free will in works of this life. But only the Holy Spirit, working through God's Word, can lead a person to love God.

[Genesis 2:7](#); [Genesis 2:22](#); [Genesis 1:26](#); [Ephesians 4:24](#); [Colossians 3:10](#); [1 Corinthians 2:14](#)

4. GOD THE FATHER

The Bible and Lutherans teach that God the Father is one of the three persons who are the Triune God. God is a spirit. This means that he cannot be seen or confined to one place. He is called Father because he is the Father of Jesus Christ and of all who believe in Jesus. He has created all things. He is holy, loving, and just. He continues to take care of all creation and all human beings.

[Matthew 28:19](#); [John 4:24](#); [John 20:17](#); [Leviticus 19:2](#); [Malachi 2:10](#); [Exodus 34:6,7](#); [Romans 8:32](#)

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information to include in the monthly newsletters, please send it to janeen.folgersx@gmail.com by the second to the last Sunday of the month.
