

THE GOOD NEWS

September 2014

At St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Fall River, Wisconsin & St. John's Lutheran Church, Doylestown, Wisconsin
Pastor James Bolda pastorstjohnststephens@gmail.com ststephensfallriver.org (920)484-3991; (920)296-3822 (cell)

Join us on Thursdays 6:30-7:15 as we study the book of Revelation at bible class this year.

Bible History classes for 5-6th graders. Parents, speak to Pastor TODAY for information. No homework!

Catechism classes for 7-8 graders. Parents, speak to Pastor TODAY for information. Yes, homework! So you can learn the basic truths of the bible and ask your questions!

Can you help? We could use more people to run hymnsoft with the organ. Interested?



Now is the time to get in the best habits of my life. Spiritual habits. For my faith. The tomorrows of good spiritual habits may well not come without our concentrated efforts.

The changing world is getting really far and away from the Lord and His Truth more and more. Being a Christian as well as thinking and living as a Christian becomes harder every day. Don't passively let worldly thinking work its way into your heads and hearts. Resist it! Fight it! Open the Word! Hear the Word! Listen to the truths of God.

In every season of the year God blesses us in so many ways. The best of our blessings shine upon us when we GET INTO THE WORD of our Lord in every season. Did you know we have 13 special services each year at church for enriching your faith? Of course you know that we have 52 weekly worship days, whether Sundays or Thursdays, to do the same as together we GET INTO THE WORD in church services. Not to mention praying with and for each other, singing praises to our Savior, finding inspiration for living a Christian life. You are missing out on the WORD if you don't come!

Educate yourself in the Word! Read at home. Study at home. Buy a study bible. It's worth it! Suggestion: Read the book of John. Set a goal for finishing. If questions arise, write them down and call pastor. Email or talk with Pastor if you want suggestions on studying the word privately, or if you need some answers from the Word on specific matters. The Word gives the answer! Our opinions are not to be held over what the Word of God says. It's vice versa. Likewise, be careful that you never let your human reason /conclusion become more important than the Word. God's Word is TRUTH.

Sunday School Open House September 7th in place of a regular SS class. Parents expected to attend. Sunday School regular classes begin Sept 14th after church services. Parents, be aggressive in inviting / bringing unchurched children along with your children to learn about the Savior at SS. PARENTS at St. Stephen's are asked to sign up for treats this year. Otherwise we may not have them! It's too much to expect of the teachers if we expect them to take care of it without much help.

PARENTS!!! Children's opportunities in the Word and with the Word of God will again revolve around FIRST AND FOREMOST, ATTENDING CHURCH WITH THEIR FAMILY each week. We cannot underestimate for you how important this is! Nor dare we underestimate how important each Sunday School opportunity is for them. Without the truths of God from young on, the children will get lost in the worldliness that is rampant everywhere, even at young ages.

Would you like a written copy of some or all the "WHO AM I" sermons from this summer? Sign up in back of church and pastor will make get you written copies.

What is your input on VBS (vacation bible school)? Shall we keep it? Why? Why not? Should we change it? How? And, can you help next year? Why? Why not?

YOUNG PEOPLE – You are invited to join us once a month this Fall for a discussion / study called "What in the World is Going on?" (Identifying Hollow and Deceptive Worldviews that are threatening the Christian world). Mark your calendars for the THIRD SUNDAY after church services – to be held at St. Stephens Fellowship Hall.

Christian Parents – The LAST Sunday of September after church please mark your calendars for a CHRISTIAN PARENTING study / discussion to be held at St. Stephen's Fellowship Hall.

Find a magnet and put the church calendar on the side of your refrigerator. Be a part of the ministry of your congregation. Offer your help! Serve alongside your church members. Don't be satisfied only by being served. Let's serve the Lord our Savior God together!

Brainstorming: Please give your ministry ideas some deep thought. Write down suggestions for your church to serve YOU and the COMMUNITIES with the Word of God. What might we try? What should we change? What should we keep? Your opinions are important.

Pastor is looking forward to seeing everyone in church this Fall. Or we might see you when we drop off newsletters, bulletins, and other materials from your church mailboxes at your homes! In fact, a glass of water, a cup of coffee or a soda with you would be great!

Looking ahead: October 19th will be the chili/soup supper. Mark your calendars. Thanks!

Give your church updated addresses, phone numbers and emails. Please help us by verifying your information by informing us of contact changes.

Lutheran Vanguard (LVW) is a competitive marching and parade band made up of students from 9 WELS member high schools. This invitation is for promoting LVW to the high school musicians in your church; membership is available to any WELS/ELS band student in grades 8 through 12. We have ways to communicate information about LVW to the area Lutheran High Schools in Wisconsin, but we also want WELS/ELS high school students in the public schools to know about us. We believe that LVW is a wonderful way for young Christian men and women to stay connected to their faith, to grow spiritually and in their leadership skills, and to have an outlet to let their lights shine before men (our summer marching schedule puts us in front of 100,000+ people as we march with the cross of Christ on our uniforms). Our summer season includes daily devotions and church attendance, and our instructors are all WELS teachers or band directors.

THRIVENT: The Pfeifers Christian Concert at the Fireside

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Arrival at 10:30am, provide own transportation

Place: Fireside Theater – 1131 Janesville Ave, Fort Atkinson 800-477-9505

Contact: Denise Derey, Thrivent Financial Director Call: 608-697-8117 or bethluch@frontier.com

All balcony seats, require walking stairs. Make checks to Columbia Co. WI Chapter mail to Denise at 208 River St., Portage, 53901. Buffet lunch, concert, tax+tip included. Tickets \$30 (\$10 going to 2nd Harvest Food Bank). This is a \$38 value. Come and enjoy the meal and the music!!

Thrivent News: The Columbia County Chapter of Thrivent has approved donating “CARE ABOUNDS IN COMMUNITIES” funds for the upcoming Hanna’s Hope 5K/10K walk/run. The event is a fundraiser for 3 local families who are currently dealing with cancer. They are Parker Dahlen, Rio; Carie Rohrbeck, Columbus; and Cassandra Nemecek, Fall River. Each individual will receive \$1200 from Thrivent after the event. The event will take place on November 1st. The Annual Meeting for the Columbia County Chapter of Thrivent will be held on October 16th at the Casino Supper Club. Mark your calendars and watch for information in your mailbox. Any questions regarding Thrivent activities can be directed to Charmaine Schultz, 920-484-3196 or charmaines@centurytel.net.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK: The Columbia County and Dane County Chapters of Thrivent are partnering to help with the 2014 NBC Share Your Holidays to Eliminate Hunger Campaign through the Second Harvest Food Bank. We hope to donate a combined \$5000 and will be able to provide 15,000 meals for families struggling with hunger. There will be a jar located in the back of church through mid-November. If you could find it in your heart to donate your loose change or a dollar a week that would be great! Each dollar will provide 3 meals. Locally, the mobile food pantry is located at:

Pardeeville: St. Mary’s of the Most Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 318 S. Main St, the 4th Monday @ 3:30pm.

Beaver Dam: CWCAC Food Pantry, (134 S. Spring St or Henry St parking lot), 2nd Saturday, 10 am. For more information call 608-223-9121 between 8:30am – 5:00pm.

Jesus is... King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Revelation 19:16

On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

We live in a world that is often affected by tragedy and disaster. Terrorist attacks, war, crime, disease, natural disasters—these are just some of the evils that affect our world. As sinful people living in a sinful world, these are sad realities that we must sometimes face. Even if we aren't directly affected by any great tragedy, problems still affect us all.

Evil in the world around us and problems in our own lives can make us afraid. They can make us feel weak and helpless. Sometimes evil seems to have the upper hand. Sometimes it seems like this world is out of control. We might wonder, "Where is God? Who is in control?"

Our Savior Jesus is in control. The Bible assures us, "The Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers" (Revelation 17:14). Jesus, "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world," is King and Lord supreme. He is in control of all things. He rules for the good of his people. His ultimate goal is to bring us safely to our eternal home in heaven.

The evidence of his rule is seen in God's plan for our salvation. On the cross, Jesus conquered sin, death and the devil. He wasn't caught off guard and forced to die. He has always been in control, even on the cross. Jesus willingly gave his life for us, only to take it up again. His death on the cross seemed like defeat, but he rose victorious. He has power over life and death. His resurrection is certain proof of our salvation and assures us of his loving rule.

He remains in control today, despite how it may appear to our human eyes. The Savior, whose love moved him to die for us, is the same Savior whose love leads him to rule everything for our eternal good. That truth calms my fears. It gives me strength to face the difficulties of life.

Especially in difficult times, I need to go to the one who is in control. I need to draw near him through his Word, the Bible. There I hear his promises. There I receive his comfort and reassurance.

He is King of kings and Lord of lords. What comfort I find in that truth!

September, 2014, LWMS News –

The Beaver Dam LWMS Circuit will be having the Fall Rally at Mt. Zion, Ripon on October 18, 2014 with registration at 10:00 A.M. The theme for the rally is “Joys and Struggles of a Home Mission with Pastor Engelbrecht giving the presentation. Matthew 10: 6-7 has been chosen for the Bible verse. It reads as follows: Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’

Our service project is the food pantries for Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and Martin Luther College at New Ulm. We will be collecting donations of money for each rather than the food. Reporters are in charge of collecting the money – so we will have two separate cans on 2 Sundays (Sept. 21 and Sept. 28). One will hold the food money to be split between WLS and MLC. The other collection will be for our mission box monies and collected on the same two Sundays. These monies will go to the Home Mission that was voted on for MLC Worker Training Scholarship Fund and the World Mission voted on will go to Brazil Projects. These funds need to be sent to our Circuit Treasurer by Oct. 1, 2014 to give her time to prepare the report for the rally folders.

Our Circuit V-President Elect has resigned and the Board wants you to consider taking this office. Please speak with the Circuit President, Beverly Grams or to your local Reporter if you have questions.

Looking ahead to 2015 - April 18 will be the Spring Rally and October 17 will be the Fall Rally.

St. John's, Doylestown received a thank you note from our Befriend A Missionary Pastor Paul Biedenbender of Denver, Colorado. It reads as follows: Gertrude and others, Thank you for the beautiful quilt for our new baby, Camila. She has been such a joy to our lives, more than I could have imagined. God bless you and thank you again for thinking of us. Pastor Paul, Teresa, Jazmine and Camila Biedenbender

United to Serve Jesus,
Gert Stilson, Reporter

August 25, 2014

Greetings from Malawi Africa!

My name is Alison Westphal and I am the Clinic Administrator for the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi. Kari Belter is the Nurse in Charge for the clinic and we will be writing letters to you during this school year.

I arrived in Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi in January 2014. There are many things that are different here than in the home and town you live in. If you are beginning your school day, we are getting ready for our evening meal. When you are getting ready to go to bed, we are getting up and gathering our things to begin our day. Also, mosquitoes are annoying and sometimes bite you. Here in Malawi and in most of Africa mosquitoes carry a disease called malaria. Malaria makes people sick and if they do not come to get medicine at our clinics, they can die. Also, I have been told the hot season is approaching. So when your days are getting cooler, ours will be heating up. We will share more about these differences in our future letters.

In this letter, I want to share something that is the same – God’s awe-inspiring creation. When you look around, please stop, look and listen at all the great things God placed in the world around you. How amazing!

When the rains stop, the amazing animals of Africa become a bit easier to find. They begin to congregate in ever-increasing numbers around ever- dwindling water sources. I finally got to see elephants, crocodiles and hippos in one of the places God made for them, the Shire River, in southern Malawi. In just one hour on boat, I was blessed to see dozens of impala, hippos, elephants and birds alongside numbers of Malawian fisherman. Every one of them had come to the river for the daily bread the Lord provided in its waters. This river teeming with life in the shadow of one of Malawi’s many beautiful mountain ranges, was a breathtaking display of God’s wonderful creation and a reminder of the precious gifts he’s placed in our care and given us to enjoy.

Scenes like this also remind me that God created a spectacularly diverse and magnificent world for us to live in, care for *and* be inspired by. In Genesis 1:22, God felt it was important enough to bless the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. “God blessed them and said, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.’” When reminding us not to worry, in Luke 12, Jesus speaks of how God adorns the grasses of the fields, “Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these.” If God thought trout and robins were worth blessing and a hillside was worth adorning in a manner that would make Solomon jealous, then it would seem appropriate to pray for the wisdom needed to be worthy appreciative stewards of His awe-inspiring creation.

As your new school year begins, remember to take care of all God has given to you. Enjoy God’s beautiful creation when you walk to school or ride the bus. Treasure these gifts – be a good steward of these blessings.

We look forward to sharing more about our lives and work in Malawi with you.

In Christ,

Alison Westphal (and Kari Belter)

2014 FALL LETTER FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

ZAMBIA:

Come and see ... these are the words of Jackson Kalekwa, our chief clinical officer of the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Center. The atmosphere is filled with excitement as the new clinic building nears completion. Much is happening at the clinic in Zambia. At the end of June, a Children's Health Week was held. 1531 children heard devotions and were given vitamin A and vermoz (treatment for worms). Missionary Dan Sargent reminds us that the clinic is nationalized (operated and supervised by medical staff from Zambia), but it is not indigenized (able to self-manage and self-support). Without our spiritual and financial support, the clinic would be run by the government and definitely not maintain the trust and reputation built over the years. Please continue to pray for the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Center ... and you are invited to visit the clinic anytime ... Jackson and the staff do not want you to come to work ... just come and witness the work being done at the "Lutheran Clinic".

MALAWI:

More change ... but good change. We are anxiously waiting for the Temporary Employment Permit (TEP) for our next Nurse-in-charge Amanda Oswald. Amanda is from Kenosha WI. She will be commissioned in December. Kari Belter has returned to Malawi until the TEP is processed for Amanda. Alison Westphal continues to adjust to her role as clinic administrator. One of Alison's talents is writing. Her letters are insightful and a joy to read. This is an excerpt from her July letter:

One other thing that happens when the rains have been absent for a while, is that the amazing animals of Africa become a bit easier to find. They begin to congregate in ever-increasing numbers around ever-dwindling water sources. As a result, I finally got to see elephants, crocodiles and hippos in one of the places God made for them, the Shire River, in southern Malawi. In just one hour on boat, I was blessed to see dozens of impala, hippos, elephants and birds alongside numbers of Malawian fisherman. Every one of them had come to the river for the daily bread the Lord provided in its waters. This river teeming with life in the shadow of one of Malawi's many beautiful mountain ranges, was a breathtaking display of God's wonderful creation and a reminder of the precious gifts he's placed in our care and given us to enjoy.

The more scenes like this I experience in my life, the more God reminds me that He did not create the Earth to be a sterile empty space, a giant waiting room with plastic plants and outdated reading material for us to sit in quietly while we wait for heaven. God did not spend 6 days creating man alone. He spent most of Genesis 1 creating a spectacularly diverse and magnificent world for us to live in, care for and be inspired by. In Genesis 1:22, God felt it was important enough to bless the birds of the air and the fish of the sea. "God blessed them and said, 'Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.'" When reminding us not to worry, in Luke 12, Jesus speaks of how God adorns the grasses of the fields, "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these." If God thought trout and robins were worth blessing and a hillside was worth adorning in a manner that would make Solomon jealous, then it would seem appropriate to pray for the wisdom needed to be worthy appreciative stewards of His awe-inspiring creation.

I was talking to a Malawian the other day who was guiding me through what used to be a lush native forest. He shared that in the past several decades native trees bearing wild fruit among other highly useful items have been cut down, never to be replanted. In some cases, it was Malawian's cutting the trees for firewood. In other cases, it was foreign timber companies clearing the forest to eventually plant non-native pine trees so that the timber could be sold and exported. In both cases, he said the result was the same. In the past, they were able to use wild fruits and other items annually produced by the forest to feed themselves and support their families, people didn't get as sick and the dry season never seemed as long. Now they rely heavily on less nutritious imported maize because the land God gave them could no longer support them because it wasn't cared for properly. Just then, we passed a wild plum tree in a portion of the forest still protected by the government. He said, "They're not ready yet, but when they are, we'll eat them, make wine to sell in the market, and then we put the pit in water overnight and it will make sugar so we don't have to buy it." Wow. All of that from one tree, planted by God himself on the top of a mountain at no cost to those wishing to make use of it.

Read the entire letter at camm.us or contact your local CAMM contact woman.

God's blessings! Angela Sievert and Linda Liesener

**~ St. John's(J) and St. Stephen's(S) Lutheran Churches
~ September 2014 ~**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 21 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship (S)	5	6
7 8:15 am Worship(J) 9:15 am Kids for Christ(J) 9:45 am Worship(S) 10:45 am Kids for Christ(S)	8	9	10 6:30 – 7:30 pm Combined Churches 7 th & 8 th gr Catechism Class(S)	11 6:30pm Joint Churches Bible Class (S) 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship w/Comm (S)	12	13
14 8:15 am Worship w/com(J) 9:15 am Kids for Christ(J) 9:45 am Worship w/com(S) 10:45 am Kids for Christ(S)	15	16 6:30 pm Elders Meeting(S)	17 3:30 pm Combined Churches 5 th & 6 th gr Bible History Class(S) 6:30 – 7:30 pm Combined Churches 7 th & 8 th gr Catechism Class(S)	18 6:30pm Joint Churches Bible Class (S) 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship (S)	19	20
21 <u>Worship with Pastor Krueger</u> 8:15 am Worship(J) 9:15 am Kids for Christ(J) 9:45 am Worship(S) 10:45 am Kids for Christ(S) 10:45am Young Peoples Topic	22	23	24 6:30 – 7:30 pm Combined Churches 7 th & 8 th gr Catechism Class(J)	25 6:30pm Joint Churches Bible Class (S) 7:30 pm Joint Churches Worship w/Comm (S)	26	27
28 8:15 am Worship w/com(J) 9:15 am Kids for Christ(J) 9:45 am Worship w/com(S) 10:45 am Kids for Christ(S) 10:45 am Christian Parenting Discussion	29	30 6:30 pm St. Stephen's Voters Meeting (S)	Notes			

St. Stephen's Ushers: September 7th: Troy Sauer, Jamie McGee, Ken Dickerson, Jayson Seije & Mark Schultz
 September 14th & 21st: Russ Krakow, Del Foulikes, Nick Posthuma, Trent Trelloff & Hunter Trelloff
 September 28th & October 5th: Phil Oehlert, Dan Oehlert, Mike Wodill & Eugene Wodill