

March 2018



Grace and Peace,

In January I was blessed to travel to the “Warm Heart of Africa”. I was invited to be 1 of 3 theologians from the NALC to teach the faithful Christian women with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM). The team consisted of Rev. Dr. Cathi Braasch, Rev. Dean Pam Thorson, and Mrs. Mari Dew. Awakening Lives for World Mission (ALWM) arranged the mission trip.

We provided 2 weeks of Catechetical training and encouragement to Lutheran women of the church in Malawi. Upon arriving in Lilongwe, we were treated as honored guests. Our host for the 2 weeks was Rev. Feston Phiri, the Executive Director of Education for the ELCM who accompanied us throughout the 2 weeks serving as coordinator, guide, and interpreter.

We traveled from Lilongwe in the central part of Malawi to the Mzuzu Deanery in the north with Derreck our driver, John the DAAA (Financial Officer), Rev. Phiri, and Agnes. Derrick took good care of us throughout our time driving us to our hotels and making sure that we learned some phrases in Chichewa. I love learning languages and managed to pick up a few phrases.

After a long drive to the Mzuzu Deanery we were met by a tremendous group of women singing and dancing their welcome. While we were tired, their love and enthusiasm was energizing. Rev. Dean Chemwaye with his wife Amai Dean Martha (wife of the Dean) welcomed us to their home. They apologized for having no electricity, but candles sufficed, and their hospitality was most welcomed. We became accustomed to the regular but random power and water shutdowns. The next week our reception was similar in the Blantyre Deanery where we were hosted by Rev. Dean Pearson Banda and his wife. We made good friends and colleagues.

On Sunday, we attended church at the Deanery Parish church in Lilongwe where Pastor Cathi preached. The worship was similar to our own liturgical sense. The

next Sunday we attended the Cathedral church in Lilongwe. I was blessed to preach there. Their many lively choirs add a dimension unlike most of our own Lutheran services. Rev. Phiri explained that they use the choirs as part of evangelism inviting young people to join a choir.

The conference in Mzuzu had 57 women from the 3 northern Deaneries attending. At the Blantyre Deanery in the south, our 2nd conference, 52 women participated. These are women in leadership within the churches, Bible study leaders, teachers, prominent women, and also young women. Without enough pastors in the ELCM, lay people including women provide preaching and teaching. The ELCM does not ordain women yet but has expressed a desire to begin that process.

Each conference began by giving out Bibles in the tribal languages of the women with most receiving one in the nationally known language of Chechewa. These were met with great excitement since most did not have Bibles and the ones we did see were torn and worn (that's a good sign).

Our task was to provide solid, Orthodox, in-depth teaching on the basic doctrines of the faith organized around Luther's Catechism. Topics included the Trinity, the Sacraments, the Ten Commandments, God's Amazing Grace, Obstacles in our lives to receiving that Grace, the Lord's Prayer, Christian marriage, and Women in Scripture, and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. The women were thoroughly engaged in every session taking notes and looking up every Bible reference. In the beginning, they were hesitant to ask questions but began to warm up as we made some connections to our own personal lives.

We had to learn African time allowing for a more extended time in discussion than our normal western expectations. They were proud to share their discussion summaries with the larger group and encouraged one another to each take a turn sharing aloud. One exercise was to create a song about the Bible story. That's easy for Africans who sing at every available moment.

As a team, we were blessed to learn more than we gave. Malawi is a poor country, but the people are warm hearted and kind. Especially wonderful was to have a number of young mothers with their babies and toddlers in the conference in Blantyre. They take their babies everywhere with them. I asked how they tied them to their backs and with delight they showed us by personal demonstration.

They use a chintenje, a piece of colorful cloth tied around like a skirt or around their backs, to tie the baby around them so they can work. We were presented with a chintenje at the end of each conference.

God provided all the necessary funds even to provide the Bibles for each participant. I felt great throughout the trip and energized. I left part of my heart in Africa, but I have taken much of Africa with me. I thank all those who gave the funds and House of Prayer for allowing the time. God is good.

In ministry together, Pastor Pam



The Parish Council met on Monday, February 19.

- Selection of areas of responsibility:
 Robin Grega – Outreach and Worship / Music
 Michelle Eckart – Fellowship
 Dan Hof – Property and Education
 Rich Patterson – Stewardship and Finance
- Appointment of Steve Klotz as Treasurer. Thank you to Charles Lemons for his 2 years in the position.
- Finalization of Budget to be presented on Sunday the 25th. Salary presented – no merit or COLA raise due to financial circumstances.
- Audit will be conducted March-April.
- Spring clean-up Day, March 24
- Decision was made to contract with a professional cleaning company.
- Reinstitution of the visitor bread program.

2018 Parish Council:

Rev. Pam Thorson		Pastor *
Cindy Lemons		Financial Secretary *
Charles Lemons		Treasurer *
Michelle Eckart	2020	President *
Rich Patterson	2020	Vice President *
Robin Gega	2021	Secretary *
Dan Hoff	2020	
Isaac Hugging	2019	
Bill Smith	2021	
* = Executive Council		

Lutherans Talk About Law and Gospel

“The law has to do with the requirements and commandments of God, experienced as conditional expectations that require obedience. The Gospel, on the other hand, is the promise of what God has freely done for us, in the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. Both are the Word of God” (Sola Publishing).



To understand the law, we've included some Laws pertaining to parenthood that may help give perspective.

Laws Pertaining to Dessert

from *Cybersalt.com*

For we judge between the plate that is unclean and the plate that is clean, saying first, if the plate is clean, then you shall have dessert.

But of the unclean plate, the laws are these: If you have eaten most of your meat, and two bites of your peas with each bite consisting of not less than three peas each, or in total six peas, eaten where I can see, and you have also eaten enough of your potatoes to fill two forks, both forkfuls eaten where I can see, then you shall have dessert. But if you eat a lesser number of peas, and yet you eat the potatoes, still you shall not have dessert; and if you eat the peas, yet leave the potatoes uneaten, you shall not have dessert, no, not even a small portion thereof.

And if you try to deceive by moving the potatoes or peas around with a fork, that it may appear you have eaten what you have not, you will fall into iniquity. And I will know, and you shall have no dessert.

Laws When at Table

If you are seated in your high chair, or in a chair such as an older person might use, keep your legs and feet below you as they were. Neither raise up your knees nor place your feet upon the table, for that is an abomination to me. Yes, even when you have an interesting bandage to show, your feet upon the table are an abomination, and worthy of rebuke.

Drink your milk as it is given you, neither use on it any utensils, nor fork, nor knife, nor spoon, for that is not what they are for; if you will dip your blocks in the milk, and lick it off, you will be sent away.

When you have drunk, let the empty cup then remain upon the table, and do not bite it upon its edge and by your teeth hold it to your face in order to make noises in it sounding like a duck: for you will be sent away.

When you chew your food, keep your mouth closed until you have swallowed, and do not open it to show your brother or your sister what is within; I say to you, do not so, even if your brother or your sister has done the same to you.

Eat your food only; do not eat that which is not food; neither seize the table between your jaws nor use the raiment of the table to wipe your lips. I say again to you, do not touch it, but leave it as it is.

And though your stick of carrot does indeed resemble a marker, draw not with it upon the table, even in pretend, for we do not do that, that is why.

And though the pieces of broccoli are very like small trees, do not stand them upright to make a forest, because we do not do that, that is why.

Sit just as I have told you, and do not lean to one side or the other, nor slide down until you are nearly slid away. Heed me; for if you sit like that, your hair will go into the syrup. And now behold, even as I have said, it has come to pass.

Spiritual Renewal

Via De Cristo - Camp Lakeview, Seymour IN
Mens Group March 1-4, 2018
Women's Group March 8-11, 2018

A Via de Cristo weekend retreat is a three-day course to review Christian fundamentals, discuss ways to live them actively, and learn some practical tools to keep them vital. This is a great adult renewal weekend, gives each attendee an opportunity to relax and rejuvenate! Renew and confirm our own faith, through conversation, study, fellowship, music, food and worship! Let us treat you to this weekend! Contact the office for more information. Cost \$100.00 pay it forward.



Altar Guild Highlight

THE SPIRIT OF SERVICE



One ministry or quiet service is our Altar Guild. The Guild is a team of dedicated souls who see that the worship space is kept beautiful and in good order to the glory of God.

Communion is served every Sunday, and this requires a complete set up of the altar along with clean-up. In addition, the Guild maintains the paraments for the altar, fill the candles, and does their work quietly and with reverence.

Please consider taking 1 month of the year to help in this vital ministry. We have an altar guild manual and directions. Training is provided. You may team with someone.

We offer our thanks and appreciation to the following Altar Guild Members and their families who assist the Lord for all of House of Prayer: Shirley Rioux - Altar Guild Director, Jahi Huggins, Michelle Eckart, Cindy Lemons, and Tina Patterson

Altar Guild Prayers

Because the work of the Guild is concerned with things set aside for the worship of God, and with the holy sacrament of the Eucharist, it is necessary to ask God's blessing on the work we do.

Almighty God, grant that we may handle holy things with reverence, *and perform our work with such faithfulness and devotion that it may be wholly acceptable to you and obtain your blessing through, Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Lord Jesus you accepted the ministry of faithful women during your earthly life. We pray you to accept and bless the work of this Altar Guild. Grant us a spirit of reverence for your church and the worship of this parish, and for your Word and Sacraments. Preserve in purity and holiness our own souls and bodies as living temples of your presence. To you, the Father, and the Holy Spirit we give praise and honor now and forever. Amen.

Parish Life



Family Event

We're going Ice Skating March 10th.
Come lace up your skates and have some fun!

Youth Fellowship Activities

10 March	Ice Skating
14 April	Hike Freeman Lake
12 May	Louisville Zoo

Women of HoPE Meet March 17th



Join the Women of HoPE on Saturday, March 17 at 10:30 AM in the church basement for our monthly get together. Join as we look into how we might do that. We always have a great time of fun and fellowship.

March 31st we will be having an Easter egg hunt and activities. There will be games, crafts, and the Easter Story. Bring your friends and family and tell everyone about it. It is going to be a great time! We will need your help putting the event together and will be collecting items to put in the Easter Eggs. We will need people to stuff eggs, man crafts stations and help keep things moving along. Please see Robin Grega or Tina Hof.





WORKDAY AT THE CHURCH

Mark March 24, 2018 on your calendars for Workday at the Church starting at 9am. Bring gloves and rakes and a joyful spirit! A wonderful way to fellowship and make the church shine.

Pancake Breakfast



Annual Pancake Breakfast & Silent Auction is coming up in April We'll need a team to work the event, sell tickets, and invite people. Keep an eye out for more information

Easter Lilies

[Sponsor an Easter lily for our sanctuary on Easter Sunday](#) in memoery of a loved one or in honor of a person or occasion. Call the office or fill out a form at church. [Lilies are \\$15 piece. You may take them home after the service on Easter Sunday.](#)



The Flower Chart is posted in the narthex. Sign up to provide flowers for a special Sunday in honor, memory, or a special occasion. Please designate "Altar Flowers" on your check in the amount of \$20 and place in the offering plate.

Education

Sunday Christian Education

Adult class: for the next weeks the class will be studying “Real Living”.

- The Sacrament of Holy Communion
- My Response to Being Loved By God
- Experiencing Real Living

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesday 10:30 AM Bible study has begun again. We are using material called, *Why Did Jesus Have to Die? A Bible Study on the Meaning of Christ's Sacrifice.* (Sola Publishing).

- The Lamb of God: The Cross as Atonement
- A Ransom for Many: The Cross as Redemption
- See What Love: The Cross as Demonstration
- The Happy Exchange: The Cross as Investment
- Father Forgive Them: The Cross as Reconciliation
- Thine is the Glory: The Cross as Victory



Tuesday Evening Lenten Series

Our Lenten study will be on Tuesday evenings from 7-8 PM. We will explore the meaning of the death of Jesus Christ and just what makes him the Messiah. Come for study, fellowship, and prayer.

Outreach Opportunities

Homeless Intervention Services (H.I.S)

Throughout 2018 we will be collecting items for the homeless shelter operated by the Homeless Intervention services. The items are listed below.

- March – Paper Plates, Napkins, Plastic Utensils
- April- Toilet Paper, Paper Towels
- May– Socks and shower shoes (Flip Flops) for men and women
- June- Toothpaste and toothbrush, mouth wash (adult and children)
- July – Laundry Detergent
- August - Body wash, deodorant (Men and Women)
- September - Combs, brushes, shave gel, razors
- October – Canned foods
- November – Blankets
- December – Towels and washcloths

Lenten and Easter Services

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 25, 10:30 AM Palm procession. Passion story.

Brunch served by the Women of HoPE after worship.

Maundy Thursday: March 29, 7 PM. Foot washing and Holy Communion

Good Friday: March 30, Noon meditation. 7 PM Tenebrae – Service of Shadows.

Easter Sunday: April 1, Men serve breakfast 9 AM.

Easter Egg hunt for the children @ 9:30 AM.

Festival Holy Communion 10:30 AM.

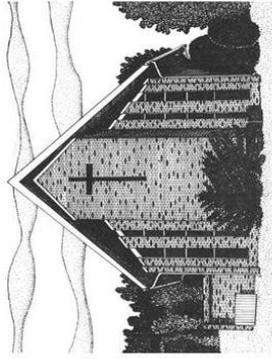


Humor Corner...

Here are some things that a Pastor dreams of hearing.

1. Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew.
2. I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went 25 minutes over time.
3. Personally I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
4. I've decided to give our church the \$500 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
5. I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Middle School Sunday School class.
6. I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
7. Since we're all here, let's start the service early.
8. Pastor, we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
9. Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!
10. I couldn't find space to park outside. Praise God!

HOUSE OF PRAYER LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Rev. Pam Thorson

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Sunday Schedule

Christian Education 9:15 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday

10:30 AM Bible Study

Noon Eucharist 1st, 3rd, 5th

Healing 3rd Wednesday

