

May 2021

Messenger of Peace

The monthly newsletter of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Messenger of Peace is a publication of Peace Lutheran Church, Wautoma, Wisc.

Purpose: *Messenger of Peace* serves the Peace Lutheran Church family with information about people and events that are part of the Peace ministry and with articles that encourage Christian living.

Articles: Please forward information and articles to Christine in the office by the 3rd Sunday of each month. Email it to: peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.

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Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please remember the following things when you come to church:

- Masks are required**
If you don't have a mask, we have disposable and fabric re-usable available
- Please socially distance**
in the sanctuary and fellowship hall
Families can sit together with no restrictions; Sit every other pew & stay six feet apart
- Offerings**
Leave your offering in the plates at the end of the aisle
- Please use the hand sanitizer** when you enter the building and whenever you touch any commonly touched surface;
Wash your hands with soap and water frequently and try to not touch your face

A Different Kind of Memorial Day

Do you remember the way things used to be- before the internet and cell phones took over? Or the first steps of your children? Many businesses have made their fortunes capitalizing on idealized versions of the past which never really existed. We like to remember the good times of our lives, and maybe even a little better than they actually were. Time has a funny way of doing that to our memories. But all of us have times in our lives we would rather forget: a loved one dies, a marriage ends, hearts, families argue. At the times in life when everything seems dark, the apostle Paul points us back to a memory we always want to keep with us: remember Jesus Christ while enduring suffering and remaining faithful!

Paul could write to Timothy with firsthand knowledge of what it meant to suffer for your faith. As the violent persecutor Saul, he had caused many people to suffer for believing in Jesus as their Savior. At his conversion, Jesus had told Paul he would not only be God's chosen missionary to the Gentiles, but had also revealed to Ananias that Paul would suffer for the sake of the gospel. Paul had certainly experienced that in his life. As he writes to Timothy, Paul holds fast to his *"gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal."* This was just the latest in Paul's string of hardships endured for the gospel. He speaks about some of them in his second letter to the Corinthians. *"Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,"* and the list keeps on going. Paul understood what it meant to suffer for your faith.

Paul's list of sufferings was pretty long. Many of us have lists just as long, if not longer! What does your list look like? Can you include the pain of losing someone, or felt lonely, been rejection in business, love or friendships? Do you blame God for the problems in your life? Does it seem like the bad things just keep on happening to you while the bad people have problem free lives? When sad or bad things happen in our lives, it can be all too easy for us to forget the one who can (and does) get us through those bad times.

In the middle of his suffering for the gospel, Paul found his freedom and strength in Jesus. Even though he was chained in prison, Paul understood the strength and power of the gospel could not be held back by suffering: *"But God's Word is not chained."* The Word of God follows us into the darkest depths of our lives to bring comfort. As the daily grind of life presses down on us, God comes to us on the pages of his word to assure us, *"My children, I have it all under control for your good."* In the gospel of Jesus, we have the ability to endure all of life's problems with faith in our hearts.

Jesus has done everything to free us from the sufferings of this life. His life was perfect in every way, never giving in to any temptation. His friends deserted him. The Jewish leaders were out to kill him. And Jesus willingly trusted in his Father's plan to save us- that plan led Jesus through unspeakable suffering. He underwent the punishment for every sin everyone has ever or will ever commit. By his death on the cross, Jesus brought us the freedom we could not win for ourselves: the forgiveness of sins. Paul, even in prison, proclaims to us the joy of faith in Jesus. *"Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David...Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him."*

When the going gets tough in your life, listen to Jesus. The promises God makes to us in his Word will never fail you. As the world tries to make you forget everything you know about God's love for you, remember Jesus Christ and you will be able to endure the worst this life can throw at you. In the midst of tears and pain, remember Jesus Christ crucified and risen for you.



Our God is Good



Have you ever felt like the guy in the cartoon with a rain cloud over his head? Wherever he goes, the rain cloud follows, but he's the only one getting wet.

When your relationships are stressed, your 401(k) tanks, or your job is on the line, it feels like that rain cloud is following wherever you go. You see your friends or neighbors and you wonder, "Why am I the only one getting wet?"

At times like that, it's easy to wonder if God is good. It may feel as if God is good to some people, but right now he's skipping you. Sometimes it seems as if God plays favorites.



We can learn about God when we look at the way this world works. Aside from cartoons, the rain never falls on just one person. If God really played favorites, only the people of his choosing would be blessed with sun, rain, and the bounty of the earth.

Look outside. It is spring! Good people and those not so good can enjoy the freshness.

God doesn't play favorites with sunshine and rain. That gives us insight into the way that he acts. The Bible says, *"The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made"* (Psalm 145:9).

Just as God sends rain and sunshine on people who believe in him and on people who don't, he sent his Son, Jesus, for every man, woman, and child on this earth. It doesn't matter whether people believe in him or not, he still sent Jesus here to save them.

Look outside again. Whether you know it or not, spring has come. The sunshine and rain tell us that God is good. Whether you know it or not, God cares for you. Jesus' life and death tell us that God is good.



Come and hear about it, either in-person or online on our Facebook page. Through faith, you will learn that no matter what rainstorms come your way, the Son will still shine in your life.

CAMM Celebrates 60 Years in Malawi and Zambia



The WELS Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) is marking 60 years of service to people in Malawi and Zambia. The first clinic began operating in Zambia in 1961; in 1970, CAMM started a clinic in Malawi as well. By meeting the physical needs of the people they serve, the door opens to share the good news of Jesus.'

Over the past 60 years, God has given CAMM the opportunity to provide people with physical care in the name of Jesus approximately three million times. The CAMM clinics in Malawi and Zambia serve all the medical needs short of hospitalization for close to 50,000 people, including: routine child health and nutrition services; delivery of babies in Zambia (mandated by the government); pre- and post-delivery care; comprehensive HIV/AIDS health services; outpatient medical services; chronic disease monitoring; making sure villages have safe water supplies and adequate sanitation; teaching on topics such as general health and how to plant and care for nutrition gardens; integrating COVID-19 management strategies to both provide care for and minimize possible infection transmission.

Shelly Sievert, chair of the CAMM stateside committee, says, "As we approach our 60th anniversary in Zambia, we reflect on God's continued grace to our clinic and our staff, which includes ten nationals in Zambia. Our Zambia clinic has been operating with little oversight from the stateside committee for close to 15 years and thrives!"

Now, the Malawi clinic will also shift to operate with a fully national staff. "Although 2020 was a tough year... it gave us time and the opportunity to look at our clinic procedures in Malawi, which have been operational for over 50 years. We currently employ 11 nationals, 1 of whom is a registered nurse," says Sievert. "After 50 years, our CAMM stateside committee, with guidance from the Administration Committee for Africa, and with prayerful consideration, has decided that the time is right. God has provided us the right staff, the right expatriates to train the staff, and the right support to do this."

Sievert says, "We thank God for the opportunity he allows every day for our clinics to operate, for the staff to care for the patients, for the chances our staff is given to share their faith, and for his continued generosity."

To learn more about the work of CAMM and find out how you can help, visit wels.net/camm.

Paul's faith was certainly challenged. How was he supposed to be the messenger of Jesus to the non-Jews of the world while he was in chains? Even in this, God was working to spread the good news of Jesus to the world. Paul would continue to suffer for the name of the Lord he preached for the rest of his life.

What challenges your faith? Do family members or friends who were once believers now seem not to care about Jesus being a part of their lives? Loneliness can become almost oppressive. Does the pain of your past creep up on you in your quiet moments during the day? Are doubts about whether we really need to teach so many things at our church that the world finds offensive swirling in your minds? Wouldn't it be easier for us to grow if we changed some things?

In your lowest points of life, remember the truth. We have Jesus on our side. He will not leave us blowing in the winds of life when things go bad. ***"If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us; if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself."*** On the cross, Jesus enslaved himself with our sins to grant us the freedom we had not earned or deserved. In Jesus, we find refuge. Jesus will strengthen us. The pain of our past finds soothing relief in Jesus. Oppressive lonely thoughts are chased away by the joy we have in Jesus our salvation. In Jesus, it is just as if the sins of our past never even happened. He paves the way for a bright future of serving God in love. In the challenging seasons of life, turn to Jesus for the strength to endure.

When the going gets tough with your faith, don't forget where your strength is. Remember Jesus Christ! His perfect life has overcome yours. His death on the cross has freed you from the debt of your sins. Jesus' empty tomb gives you eternal life with Jesus forever in heaven. If your life has been full of bumps in the road lately, don't let those bumps make you forget your source of strength and calm. Remember Jesus Christ while enduring suffering and remain faithful.

Pastor Steven Tews

Red Cross Blood Drive



THANK YOU to those who helped at the registration table at our last blood drive. We had 32 units donated!

Mark your calendars for our next Red Cross Blood Drive on Wednesday, June 16, 12-5:30 pm.

If you are able to help at the registration table, please see Christine in the office.

Peace Pantry Hours

The Peace Pantry is open during regular office hours during the week and by appointment. The pantry is open to our members and the community. If you, or someone you know, is in need, please utilize our Pantry! Call Christine at 920-787-3856 for more info.

We're Live!

If you can't make it church for worship, you now have the option of joining us LIVE every Sunday on our Facebook page! We are able to live stream and will do so every Sunday at 9 am. If you miss it, you can always go back and watch later!



Be sure to "like" our Facebook page (find us by searching @PeaceWautoma) and start watching live!

Please see Kevin Bohn with any questions or concerns!





Save the dates for
Vacation Bible School
July 19-20-21, 2021
5-7:30 pm



Kids ages 4K-8th grade can join us for crafts, singing, games, dinner, and closing campfire each day as we soar high learning about Jesus' love for us!

We will be outside the majority of the time, weather-permitting. While inside, we will follow local & state health guidelines.

If you would prefer to do VBS at home (similar to last year's VBS), let the church office know by July 4 and we will put together at-home VBS kits for you.

If you would like to help with VBS or have any questions or concerns, please see Christine (787-3856).

URGENT NEED



We are in urgent need of people to learn how to run the sound/video equipment for church services, as well as people to learn how to use the Hymnsoft for when we don't have an organist.

Please talk to Kevin Bohn (920-765-2146) if you can assist in either of these ways.

Paint Class

All the money raised at our Paint Class on April 12 went for making goody bags for our shut-ins! We also received lots of canned goods for our Pantry! Thanks to everyone who came out and supported our causes! This paint class was organized by the Circle of Peace. The Circle of Peace meets the first Thursday of each month at 12:30 pm and all the ladies of Peace are invited to join us!

Spring Clean Up

Saturday, May 1 9 am-12 pm
Help us clean up the church property on Saturday, May 1 from 9 am- 12 pm. Bring your rakes and work gloves to help make the church grounds beautiful! We will have jobs for all ages and skill levels!
See Fred Bohlmann with any questions.



May Birthdays

5/7 DuWayne Bartel
Larry Walton
5/13 Lu Ann Sittig
Nate Sigourney
5/14 Darryl Ast
5/15 Casey Wedde
5/17 Robyn Rudolph
5/19 Wade Proctor
5/24 Marion Treichel
Pat Johnson
5/28 Marilyn Chesbrough
5/29 Julie Powers
5/31 Lisa Bartel



May Anniversaries

5/20 Eugene & Michelle Wedde (26)
5/28 Eric & Rebecka Richards (10)



If we missed your birthday or anniversary, that means the church does not have it. Please drop off dates at the church office, call 787.3856 or email peacelutheranwautoma@gmail.com.

Remember Our Shut-Ins

Please remember our shut-ins (including those who are shut-ins during this pandemic) in your prayers! If you would like a list of shut-ins to pray for, call, or send cards of encouragement to, please call the church office at 787-3856 and we will get that list to you.

Sunday School Corner

Every Sunday 10:15 am- 11:15 am

Sunday School is so important to every child and we are so glad we got to serve your children this year! Let's finish our school year off strong!

Our last class this year will be May 30.

April Lessons for 4K- 6th Grade

Date	Lesson
May 2	Jesus' Dying Words
May 9	Jesus' Enemies Deny
May 16	Jesus Appears to Mary
May 23	The Gift of the Holy Spirit
May 30	Last day of Sunday School!

Sunday School is an extension of the family. We are here to assist families in their job of teaching and preparing young Christians for life. We consider it a privilege to serve the families of our congregation and urge each of you to take an active role in the Christian education of the children in your lives.

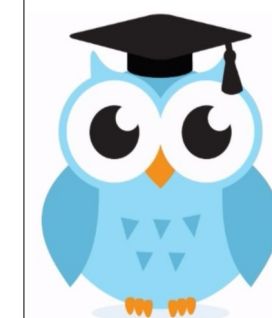


Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Please speak with me, any Sunday School teacher, or Pastor for more information about Sunday School, to volunteer, or to donate to the Sunday School program.
Karin Hetcher (920-240-6201)
Sunday School Superintendent

Congratulations Class of 2021

Emily Bohn, Wautoma HS
Shania Royston, Wautoma HS



*In all your ways
acknowledge
Him, and He
shall direct your
paths.*
Proverbs 3:6

