

From your pastor...



Time is a fascinating subject to me. Every minute is a gift from our good and gracious God. How am I using this precious gift right now? How can I improve on my use of time going forward? How do I overcome procrastination and get out of time debt? How do I tackle issues and situations that are bugging and bothering me and weighing me down? What are my priorities and are they in line with God’s priorities for me, His child? How do I stay focused and at the same time balanced? How do I juggle family time and work time and “me” time? Is there even such a thing as “me” time? What does God’s Word teach me about my time on earth? What does the Bible tell me about the end of my time on earth and the endlessness of time in heaven? There are even more questions, but that’s enough for now.

Time is a complex, multi-faceted subject, and I suppose that’s what makes it fascinating to me. We spend our days and years in the light of Easter! Our Savior is alive forever! Therefore, our days and years are not futile, and neither are our efforts as we always give ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58)

(First in a series on “Our Use of God’s Gift of Time”)

~ Pastor J. Bare

**Church Council News:
Our financial report – as of February 2018**

	Month	Year to Date
Budget Requirements	\$48,793.42	\$97,586.84
Offerings	\$42,573.66	\$72,811.74
Tuition/FEF/ Reg	\$ 3,385.00	\$ 4,898.77
Other	\$ 119.00	\$ 121.90
Total Receipts	\$46,077.66	\$77,832.41
Actual Expenses	\$47,852.50	\$92,547.05
Difference	-\$ 1,774.84	-\$14,714.64

Owed to Internal Line of Credit: \$50,000

The Council approved the transfer of Rosemary Faith LaHaine to Emmanuel First Lutheran Church, WELS, Lansing, MI.

Pastor reported that \$858 was given to both New Beginnings and Calvary Academy from our Love Offering.

The 2018 recipients will be the Flint Pregnancy Care Center, Calvary Academy and Central African Medical Mission. Our Love door offering will be on Thanksgiving. You can use your Love offering envelope at any time during the year to contribute to this fund.

The MLS Concert Choir door offering was \$1,257. Thank you!

President's Status Report concerning January 28th Open Forum

I would like to take a few minutes and provide an update as to what has taken place since the Open Forum on January 26, 2018.

- We are finishing up the Passion Season as you are all aware of. Weekly offerings continue to be up since the meeting. We have returned the money that was borrowed from the Associate Pastor Fund (\$6,615.00). Our goal will be to start paying down our internal line of credit (\$50,000) with the offerings that are above and beyond our budgeted expenses.
- Based on the feedback we received at the Open Forum, the mission of the Church and School is to continue to move forward. Therefore, the Board of Elders and Pastor have reviewed the Ministry Plan and have decided to ask the Voters in April to approve a request of the WELS Assignment Committee to place a Graduate Pastor here at Salem. Previously we have attempted to call a pastor from the field.
- The upcoming spring and summer month's offerings need to at least remain at their current level for our plan moving forward to be reasonable.
- Council will continue to monitor our financial situation and updates will be provided in the weekly bulletins.

As we have previously said, if you have any ideas, suggestions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact anyone of us and we will try to address it as best we can.

Thank you, Rick Freeman

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Communion Services

March 29th at noon & 7pm

Good Friday Communion Services

March 30th at noon & 7pm

Easter Festival Services

April 1st at 8 & 10:30am

&

Easter Breakfast

9-10:30am in the fellowship room

Salem's Family Tree at Salem School

Thanks to the hard work of several of our parents, our lunch room, now called the “*Cardinal Cafe*”, received a much-needed make over. One of the newest, neatest things is a Salem Family Tree. We have the thumbprints and names of all of our current students and staff. We also have added the names of alumni and want this to be an ongoing project. If you have time, please ask about our new *Cardinal Cafe* and talk to Mr. Perry about getting your thumbprint on the wall if you are a past student or staff member. We would love to add you to our family tree!

Coke Rewards

We received our quarterly check in February for \$126.80. This does not include the Coke Cap Drive that we had in January. We are still looking forward to seeing the totals from all the caps and codes that were brought in. Thank you all for sending them in; and to anyone who inputs theirs at home and donates them to Salem. Thank you!!!



Sewing Classes for Children & Young Adults (ages 7– high school)

**We are in the planning stages for a
Free Summer Children’s Sewing Class
at Salem School**

We are looking for volunteers, sewing machines and fabric. We will gladly accept any used, working sewing machines, clean fabric or sewing notions. Machines can be loaned, donated or for sale. We can find homes for all the above. If you are interested in donating something or willing to help, call Pat Bodary 989-413-6746 or Pam Strauch 989-666-8612.

Growing opportunities in the Philippines

2018/03/06/in Together

In February, Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) team members, World Mission Seminary Professor Rev. Bradley Wordell and International Recruitment Director Rev. Jon Bare, joined Rev. Robb Raasch, the chairman of the Asia Pacific Rim Administrative Committee, on a trip to the Philippines. The purpose of the trip was to work with Rev. Alvien De Guzman of Law and Gospel Lutheran Church in Manilla on a plan for a pastoral training program.

A year ago, De Guzman didn’t see the potential of needing a pastoral training program for the near future. But just in the past few months, three men, who like De Guzman had left another church body for doctrinal reasons, contacted De Guzman, wondering if they might join his congregation. He discovered that all three had begun pastoral training in their

original church but left when they became convinced by Scripture that they were not receiving the truth of God's Word. Each of the men has a group in front of them ready to be led, but the men need pastoral training to be prepared to serve them.

That began a conversation with World Missions and the PSI team, leading to this visit. "It was a privilege to meet these three men and to hear their stories," says Wordell. "Their patience and determination are inspiring. They have been waiting to see what the Lord's plan is for them, and each of them has a strong desire to serve among Christ's people."

The training program will be specifically designed to meet the needs for pastoring churches in the Philippines. "Our goal is to provide the training that these men need in their own culture and context," says Bare. "This visit allowed us to work with Pastor De Guzman to design the best program for this growing church in the Philippines."

The courses will be offered in a variety of methods. De Guzman will teach some courses on the ground. Others will be conducted online or through intensive courses offered on short-term visits.

WELS first got involved with De Guzman in 2014, when De Guzman contacted WELS World Missions looking for help after he discovered WELS online. In early 2015, WELS determined that De Guzman was in doctrinal fellowship. His congregation is using videos and printed materials from Multi-Language Publications to reach out to the unchurched in its community.

Pastor Jon Bare will be the guest pastor at the LWMS Rally on April 22 at Mt. Sinai Lutheran Church in Montrose.

New World Mission start in South America

2018/03/20/in Together

This summer two missionaries from the One Latin America (1LA) mission team will be moving to Ecuador. This will be the first time WELS will have an active mission presence in the South American country. Rev. Nathan Schulte and Rev. Phil Strackbein have begun making arrangements to make the move. Schulte currently serves in Mexico, and Strackbein serves in Bolivia.

Schulte, a member of the 1LA team, explains, “In the beginning of November all the 1LA missionaries met in Mexico City to discuss a major training program we are developing and the relocation of different missionaries to best accomplish our goals as a team. We want to reach as many people as possible and to train people to be leaders in their own multiplying groups. The team had done extensive research on a number of major cities in Latin America. Quito, Ecuador, eventually came to the top of the list for a number of reasons.”

One of the main contributing factors to the decision was the large number of Facebook users in Ecuador, more than 60,000, following Academia Cristo online. Academia Cristo is a WELS Spanish-language website with videos and audio Bible studies to reach out to non-Christians as well as to train Latin American church members how to share their faith.

A second contributing factor is that with a location in Ecuador, it puts the missionaries closer to other countries in South America where WELS can't permanently locate a missionary for safety or political reasons, but where interest in the gospel message has been demonstrated through active use of the Academia Cristo website.

And a third reason is, while WELS has never officially had a mission in Ecuador, Martin Luther College Spanish Professor Paul Bases has been taking groups of students there

for years to teach English, and through that work, valuable connections have already been made.

Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of WELS World Missions, says the main goal of the missionaries is to “facilitate the planting of small group churches in Quito and beyond.” He says, “The idea is that in a short time, to connect Ecuadorean Christians to the online materials and relationships so that they’re able to keep the ministry rolling even after our missionaries might leave.”

Schulte says, “I love the fact that, from the start, we are focused on training Ecuadorians to study God’s Word and to share it with others. They know their culture and situations better than I ever will and God has already placed them in their own unique contexts with their own connections and opportunities. I’m really looking forward to working to help them to do just that—share God’s grace with others.”

The missionaries’ first priorities will be to find a location for a Christian training center while also settling in themselves and doing boots-on-the-ground work, meeting their neighbors and learning more about the community. To help this effort, two congregations, St. Matthew, Oconomowoc, Wis., and Goodview Trinity, Goodview, Minn., will be sending volunteers in May and June to host introduction workshops open to the Quito community. These two volunteer groups are the inaugural groups for the new WELS Missions Journeys program, which is starting to help coordinate opportunities and WELS members who want to volunteer in a WELS mission field.

Schulte says, “Ecuador, like all Latin America, is in desperate need of God’s grace. It is grace-starved. Even in many churches and Christian groups, the emphasis is not on Jesus and what he has done for us in our salvation. We want to bring people to the source of that grace—the Bible, to teach them to learn from it and to share it with others.”