



Holy Cross—St. Mark Newsletter August 2024



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Upcoming Events

- July 29 - Aug. 1: VBS
- Aug. 4: Joint VBS Worship HC-10:30am
- Aug. 6, 13, 20: Midweek Bible Class
- Aug. 12: SM Council Meeting-6pm
- Aug. 15: HC Council Meeting-6pm

Devotional Thoughts

By Pastor Crass

Many of you probably heard about the WELS family on vacation in the Wisconsin Dells which was devastated by a house fire. Six members of the family were lost, a father, two of his daughters, and three of his granddaughters. The father was a missionary back home stateside for the summer from Thailand. He had actually made it out of the fire at first, but later went back in to rescue his granddaughters.

I think about the missionary’s wife, a woman who in the course of a night lost her husband, two daughters, and three granddaughters. Not only that, but she would also be losing her home in Thailand. What horror! What tragedy! I think about the missionary’s son-in-law, who made it out with two of his daughters, but his wife and youngest daughter didn’t make it out. I think about the mother and father who lost two of their adopted daughters, only a year after the death of one of their sons. In just a matter of hours, a family of Christians was decimated. It’s a scene out of the book of Job.

What do you say about it all? My first thought was the phrase everybody uses: “There are no words.” What do you say to a family that has gone through all of that? What words could bring comfort to a group who would attend many family funerals over the following handful of days?

Do you ever feel that way? Maybe it’s a situation in your own life with people you know. What do you say when it feels like your world has been popped like a balloon? Maybe you’ve moved by the things going on far away, those news stories that leave you wishing there was something you could do. What words come to mind? What ought we say?

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WELS News

The Word of the Lord grows—from Hong Kong to New Zealand

The South Asian Lutheran Evangelical Mission (SALEM) is a sister church body comprised of ten congregations located in Hong Kong. This week, five members of SALEM visited our synod's headquarters in Waukesha, Wis. They had attended the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society convention and now were visiting various WELS sites in Wisconsin.

What made this visit especially interesting was the report this group shared about a new mission effort in New Zealand. Since 2020, about two dozen members of SALEM moved from Hong Kong to New Zealand. With the help of SALEM, they formed a new mission congregation called SALEM New Zealand Lutheran Church. In the three years since, their group has grown to about 40 Chinese-speaking members. They joyfully described the blessings of their fellowship in this new land, and they were very excited to be sharing the gospel with other Chinese-speaking people there. SALEM will be continuing its support of SALEM New Zealand in the coming years.

The WELS Board for World Missions has provided some modest funding to support their effort. In addition, Missionary Matt Doebler, located in Thailand, will also be providing additional guidance and encouragement to this group.

This is a beautiful reminder that our sister church bodies around the world are not content to keep the gospel for themselves but are also dedicating time and resources to take the gospel to new places and new people.

To get a small glimpse of their faith and mission zeal, you can watch a brief video introducing you to these brothers and sisters in Christ.

Serving with you in Christ,
WELS President Mark Schroeder

Dual Parish Update

- The voters of both of our churches have approved the implementation of our outreach and inreach programs. We are hoping to have both implemented by the beginning of 2025. Here is the description given last month:
 - Inreach: There is a program put together by the synod called the Peter Plan. The purpose of the plan is to have certain milestones at which the pastor and council reach out to those who have not been in church in some time to encourage them to not neglect public worship (Hebrews 10:25) and express loving concern for their walk of faith.
 - Outreach: The outreach workshop a few of our members attended earlier this year put forward a plan to put together gift baskets and drop them off at the houses of visitors to our congregations and those who move into the area. To be aware of new residents, we will ask our members to notify us when they see a new family move into their neighborhood. A volunteer would then go and drop off the basket, thanking the church visitor(s) for coming or welcoming the new family to the area.

St. Mark Council Update

- The voters approved replacing the two old furnaces with one new furnace before the winter season.
- The voters also approved the purchase of a new TV. This will only be used for WELS Connection and Bible class when needed.

Holy Cross Council Update

- The final constitution and bylaws has been approved. Minor changes were made from the document that was approved in 2023.
- The council is exploring the purchase of a Paschal candle as a symbol of Jesus in his glory to be placed in the front of church.
- The water fountain has been turned on. The council is monitoring whether there are leaks or not.

Who Can I Pray For?

Below are some of our shut-ins that you can pray for, call, and even visit (please call ahead before any visits).

- Luella Dahlberg - (906)788-4228 - W4642 County Rd. 346, Wallace, MI 49893
- Carol Heydn - (906)788-4445 - W5744 14 Lane, Wallace, MI 49893
- Kristin Bates - (906)280-8276 - W6450 Cty. Rd. 358, Daggett, MI 49821
- Harold and Virginia Schlenvogt - (906)753-4326 - W5209 Cty Rd 348, Stephenson, MI 49887
- Evelyn Smith - (920)370-2361 - W3124 Cty Rd 366, Daggett, MI 49821 (currently living at Menominee Health Services in Menominee)
- George and Cheryl Bussler - (906)290-0881 - N222 Willow St, Stephenson, MI 49887
- Jim and Carlyn Lynch - (906)241-1488 - N10438 M-35, Cedar River, MI 49887

Would you like to be included on this list? Please reach out to Pastor Crass.

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But it's all a lie. There are, in fact, words. But these words don't come from us. They are not promises that "everything will be better" when we have no control to make the situation better. They are promises from the only one who can make our most troubling days better. What words can be said at the casket of the five year old? Maybe the words of Jesus himself: "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14) What can you say to the man who lost his job and is terrified that his house will be foreclosed upon? Maybe the words of God to the prophet Jeremiah: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to give you peace, not disaster, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

We might sit in silence like Job's friends after he faced tragedy, but that silence should not last forever. Why? Because you are in a unique situation. You have the words to say when the unbelieving world around you only has anger and despair. When disaster strikes, you might be the spiritual first responder, on the scene to see a life mangled by sin. When God blesses you with those opportunities, don't stand in silence. Speak the words you know are truth. Convey the comfort that is yours only because of what happened on the cross two thousand years ago. This is what people need to hear. This is what matters when all other words fail us. Amen.

Member Announcements

From Pastor Crass:

On Sunday, July 14 I received a call to serve as an associate pastor at Eastside Lutheran Church in Madison. Please keep Christa and me in your prayers as I deliberate where I can serve the Lord's Church best, whether here in Daggett and Wallace or down in Madison. Feel free to reach out with any questions or thoughts about our current ministry here.

Do you have any announcements you'd like shared in the church newsletter? Reach out to Pastor Crass.

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																								
28 Pastor Out of Town 8am Bible Class at Holy Cross 8:45am Worship at Holy Cross 10:30am Worship at St. Mark 11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark	29 5:30pm Supper (pre-VBS) 6pm VBS	30 5:30pm Supper (pre-VBS) 6pm VBS	31 5:30pm Supper (pre-VBS) 6pm VBS	1 5:30pm Supper (pre-VBS) 6pm VBS	2	3																								
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St. Mark Altar: Nancy Larsen Hostess: Kay Keefer																														