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Holy Cross—St. Mark

Newsletter

September 2025



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In this Issue:

Devotional Thoughts—p. 1, 3
Synod News—p. 2
Dual Parish Update —p. 2
St. Mark Council Update—p. 2
Holy Cross Council Update—p. 2
Who Can I Pray For? —p. 3
Calendar —p. 4

Upcoming Events

Sep. 7: HC Sunday School Starts
Sep. 8: HC Ladies' Aid - 1pm
Sep. 8: Little Lambs @HC - 6pm
Sep. 8: SM Council Meeting - 6pm
Sep. 9: Midweek Bible Class Begins
Sep. 17: 20's & 30's Group @HC - 6pm
Sep. 18: HC Council Meeting - 6:30pm
Sep. 28: SM Fellowship

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Devotional Thoughts

By Pastor Crass

“What does that do?” That was the question I asked myself as I picked up a piece of rusty metal from the ground. I had just moved our old clunker car to another spot in the parking lot and saw the left-behind car part walking past where the car was parked before. At 18 years old and nearly 300,000 miles, it’s no surprise that it was beginning to fall apart. As our third car, that only gets used a few times a month and we’re only holding onto in case another car is in the shop, I’m not too concerned with losing what seemed to be one of a few brackets to hold up the exhaust system. But it did make me climb under the car to find out what the good people at Honda had manufactured this part to do.

We live in a world full of purpose. And in our fairly-streamlined economy and consumeristic society, we love to figure out the purpose for things. Men, you may have a garage full of tools. Each one has a certain function, and even the tools that seem to do the same thing are made for slightly different uses. Women, you may say the same thing about the shoes in your closet, the beauty products in your cabinet, or all the gadgets you have for taking care of kids and grandkids.

We think a lot about purpose. But we don’t just think about what other things were made for. We wonder what we were made for too. Sometimes we use our jobs to define us. “I am a nurse.” “I am a mom.” “I am a police officer.” We identify with what we do. Maybe we use our talents to define us. “I am artistic, therefore I paint.” “I have an eye for fine detail and love to build, so I do woodworking.”

What were you made to be? Ultimately, you don’t get to decide that, just like a guitar doesn’t decide that it was made to be strummed and not to rake the backyard in fall. So, if you don’t get to decide your purpose, who does? The Creator.

(continued on page 3)

WELS News

Graduation from Asia Lutheran Seminary's Regional Theological Education Program

Celebrating a graduation in Thailand may look different, but it is no less exciting. The churches in Thailand just celebrated the graduation of three evangelists from the Pastoral Studies Institute program run with the assistance of Asia Lutheran Seminary's Regional Theological Education Program (RTEP). Two of these men will continue their work planting churches in two different nearby villages. The third will help support the ministry of another church in the area. Lord willing, we will see more leaders trained in the future by them!

We thank God for these pastors' many years of training. We thank God for their many teachers over the years, including, but not limited to, Pastor Robert Meister, Pastor Pheng Moua, and President Jonathan Bare. Ultimately, we thank God for his answer to prayers: "Then [Jesus] said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.' " These men are God's answers to this prayer. Let's thank God that he continues to answer this prayer with a resounding, "Yes! Here they are!"

Written by Mark Zondag, missionary on the Asia-Oceania Team

Extending Beyond Clinic Walls

The work of the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM) in Malawi extends far beyond the clinic walls of the four villages of Suzi, Mwalaulomwe, Thunga, and Msambo that we serve. While nurses, clinic staff, and volunteers work tirelessly to care for patients during clinic hours, the commitment of the staff doesn't end there—their service continues long after the last patient has been seen.

The Malawi Ministry of Health requires CAMM to regularly submit detailed reports. These reports include the number of patients seen, ailments treated, and cases referred to government healthcare facilities. This ongoing collaboration ensures transparency and reinforces CAMM's vital role in conducting healthcare in Malawi. For example, the most frequent ailment we saw in April was malaria (1,533 patients) followed by the common cold (1,030 patients). This data is reported on the monthly and annual reports.

All prescriptions, medications, and medical equipment are stored onsite in the clinic's pharmacy in Lilongwe. Once a month, staff conduct a thorough inventory to track what supplies were used and identify any shortages. Violet Chikwatu, nurse in charge, and Lusungu Mwambeye, clinic administrator, play a key role in compiling reports, submitting required documentation, and restocking essential medications. Lusungu often contacts multiple pharmacies to secure necessary stock at the best available prices.

For the Under-Five program, the clinic provides wellness checks and immunizations for all children under five years old. Staff ensure each child's health record is up to date and that vaccines are stored securely and correctly to maintain effectiveness. In April alone, the clinics in Malawi saw more than 4,000 children in the Under-Five program.

We are incredibly grateful for the dedicated staff of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi. Their attention to detail, compassion for every patient, and unwavering commitment to excellence reflect the mission of providing "Christ-centered healthcare that supports the gospel." Their work is a true blessing to the communities we serve. We thank all of our supporters who help keep our medications and supplies readily available. Whether it's through financial contributions for purchasing prescriptions or sending packages filled with pill bottles, sunscreen, and other essential items—we are truly blessed by your generosity.

If you're interested in supporting CAMM's mission, visit their website at camm.us. Your partnership helps us continue providing life-changing, Christ-centered healthcare to those in need.

Written by Angela Sievert, Central Africa Medical Mission chair

Dual Parish Update

- Both churches will be moving forward with a "Welcome Home Sunday" on October 26. Our hope is to have every member in church that Sunday to celebrate the reformation and 175th anniversary of WELS.

St. Mark Council Update

- The new sign and planter have been installed.
- A minifridge has been purchased and placed in the sacristy to help those setting up communion.

Holy Cross Council Update

- Council discussed which church season of banners we will purchase next. It seems that Lent is the next long holiday.

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).

- 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 - 1191 Pawn Dr, Green Bay WI 54313 (currently living at Menominee Health Services in Menominee)
- Elizabeth Grille - (906)792-6060 - W4728 County Rd. 338, Wallace, MI 49893 (currently living at Menominee Health Services in Menominee)
- 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
- Judy Hamblen - (715)923-5661 - 2006 Lake Park Dr, Room 209, Marinette, WI 54143 (The Cottages in Marinette)
- Shirley Wetthuhn - (906)639-2236 - 2006 Lake Park Dr, Room 114, Marinette, WI 54143 (The Cottages)

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

(continued from page 1)

I'll admit, I've never been one for instruction manuals. I'm too impatient. I'd rather get to using whatever I just bought, and I'll figure out how along the way. But that has been a mistake more times than I'd like to admit. There have been many times, especially with furniture, when I've had to backtrack on a large portion of my project because I had put one piece on backwards. I didn't read the instructions. I wasn't using the product the way it's creator intended.

It's foolishness, isn't it? To use something against its intended purpose? Sure, I can save some money on a lawnmower by buying a pair of scissors. And yes, a pair of scissors will technically cut my lawn, but it's going to take weeks longer than the John Deere in the garage. And I can turn my dress pants into dress shorts for the summer by cutting off the pant legs, but you're probably going to think much less of style and even less of my critical thinking skills if I do that.

So what's the spiritual point of this devotion? It's to remember that God created you with purpose and he created the gifts he's given you with purpose too. You were created to have a right relationship with God. That's why Christ suffered, died, and rose for you. You were created to serve your neighbor in various ways, and the job you work is just one of them. For those of you married, God gave you the gift of marriage—and all the blessings that go with it—to use the way he designed. God has given you bodies, not to abuse them with careless living, but to foster and take care of them. He's given you money, not to use it for destructive or evil purposes, but to manage it to God's glory and use it as a wise steward.

What is your purpose? What do you do? I guess we don't have enough time to fully flesh it out in this last inch of page space. But I'll tell you where you can find your purpose. In Scripture, the instruction manual for humans beings, and even more than that, the story of the Creator's love for a creation lost in sin. You want to know what you're made for? Start reading.

Member Announcements

The Sivula family would like to thank everyone who brought food and worked in the kitchen for John's funeral.

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross</div> <div>8:45am Worship at Holy Cross</div> <div>10:30am Worship at St. Mark</div> <div>11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark</div> <div>31</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>3:30pm Catechism Class</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>
<div>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross</div> <div>8:45am Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion</div> <div>9:45am Sunday School at Holy Cross</div> <div>10:30am Worship at St. Mark w/Communion</div> <div>11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark</div> <div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>1pm Holy Cross Ladies' Aid</div> <div>6pm Little Lambs</div> <div>6pm St. Mark Council Meeting</div>	<div>9</div> <div>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark</div> <div>6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</div>	<div>10</div> <div>3:30pm Catechism Class</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>
<div>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross</div> <div>8:45am Worship at Holy Cross</div> <div>9:45am Sunday School at Holy Cross</div> <div>10:30am Worship at St. Mark</div> <div>11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark</div> <div>14</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark</div> <div>6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</div>	<div>17</div> <div>3:30pm Catechism Class</div> <div>6pm 20's and 30's Group</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6:30pm Holy Cross Council Meeting</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>
<div>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross</div> <div>8:45am Worship at Holy Cross w/Communion</div> <div>9:45am Sunday School at Holy Cross</div> <div>10:30am Worship at St. Mark w/Communion</div> <div>11:30am Bible Class at St. Mark</div> <div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>
<div>8am Bible Class at Holy Cross</div> <div>8:45am Worship at Holy Cross</div> <div>9:45am Sunday School at Holy Cross</div> <div>10:30am Worship at St. Mark</div> <div>11:30am Fellowship at St. Mark</div> <div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>6pm Little Lambs</div>	<div>30</div> <div>1pm Midweek Bible Class at St. Mark</div> <div>6:30pm Midweek Bible Class at Holy Cross</div>	<div>1</div> <div>3:30pm Catechism Class</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>
<div><div>St. Mark</div><div>Altar: Connie & Sally Theuerkauf</div></div> <div><div>Date</div><div>Tischers</div><div>Holy Cross</div><div>Counters</div></div>						