

WELS YOUTH NIGHT

WELS Youth Night: Sunday,
October 16 @ 6:00-8:30 PM

"Youth Night' is an event for High School students, not only from our congregation but also from area congregations. The goal is for our teens to see that they are not alone and to be encouraged to enjoy the faith they share with others.

God created us to be in a community with each other. We belong to him. We belong together. That is the idea for WELS youth night in October. We would like to bring a group of teens to this event. Look for more information in the coming weeks!



A God-Lived Life—The Life of a Disciple

You’ve seen the graphic a number of times now. You’ve heard about this God-Lived Life focus. You’ve been told we are going to challenge ourselves and others. So what does that look like.

What follows is an “outline” of what to look for as we go forward with our God-Lived Life stewardship challenge.

September 11—Special Worship focused on the Life of a Disciple

September 11—Challenge Card handed out at church to be filled out during the week

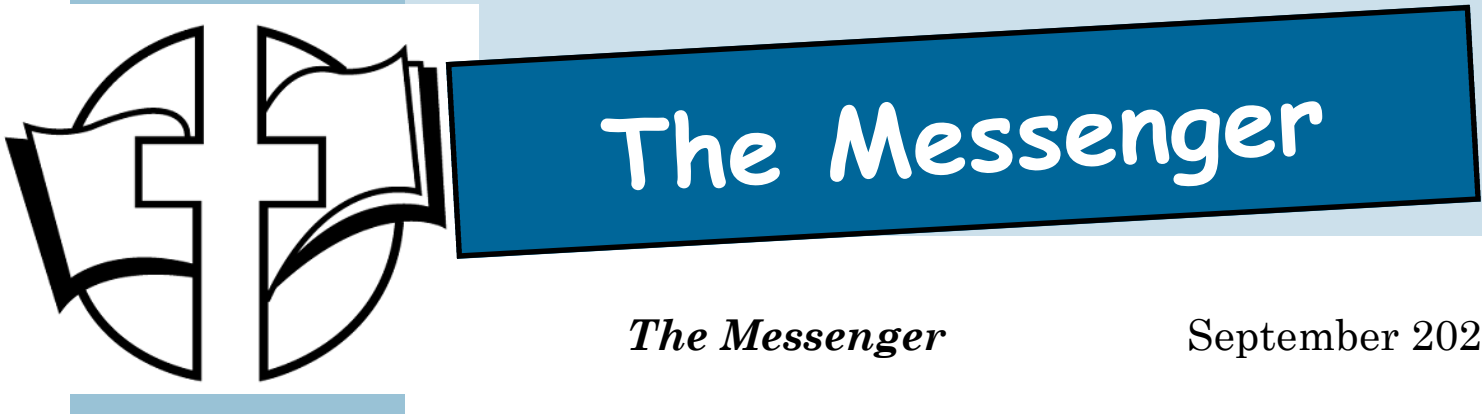
September 11—Special Bible Class focused on the Life of a Disciple (9:15 am in Black River Falls—Led by Pastor Baerbock / 11 am in Cataract—Led by Pastor Neumann)

September 12—Special small group Bible Study taking a deeper look at Sunday’s sermon (6 pm at Black River Falls—led by elder Dave Spaude; 6 pm at Cataract—led by elder Garrett

Jessie)

September 13—Special small group Bible Study taking a deeper look at Sunday’ sermon (10 am at Black River Falls—led by elder Ken Diener)

*Please note, this is the same as Monday, just offered again at a different time



The Messenger

September 2022

Why does bad stuff happen to me?

My mom has cancer. My dad lost his job. My sister is in high school and pregnant. My brother’s grades are slipping. Work is so stressful. My life is unstable. Why does bad stuff happen to me?

Plenty of people have plenty of suggestions.

“Maybe God does not love you.”
“Maybe he is punishing you for something.”
“Maybe everything is too much for him to handle.”

Do you want to know the real answer? It is staggering. “God is LOVE” (1 John 4:16).

What? How can that be? How can there be so many bad things in my life if God is love? Wouldn’t a loving God just erase all the bad stuff and only give me good? Well...no.

The kids need shots. They cry with pain. You love them. Are shots “bad”?

You need surgery. It’s going to hurt and take some time to heal. Your doctor cares about you. Is surgery “bad”?

Your football coach tells you to run ten 100-yard-sprints. It’s not exactly a vacation. Your coach wants what is best for you. Are the sprints “bad”?

So much in our lives looks like “bad stuff,” but it is really “good.” It certainly looked like a lot of “bad stuff” was happening on the day Jesus died. Jesus was falsely accused of breaking the law. He was whipped, mocked, and executed on the cross. That is some really “bad stuff” for Jesus, but Christians still call that day GOOD Friday.

Because of that “bad stuff” on Good Friday, Jesus removes all

of our sins and all of our guilt and says, “I’ll take those for you. I’ll make them mine.” Jesus has tremendous love for us. He takes the punishment away from us. He has the power to handle everything in our lives.

While everyone has their own opinions about why “bad stuff” happens to them, God gently points me to Jesus and gives me the right answer: “God is LOVE.”

Do you want to learn more about this love? Join us regularly in worship and our many Bible studies to learn more about God’s perfect love for you, and how he uses all the “bad stuff” in your life for your good.



Mission Festival – September 25, 2022

On Sunday, September 25, we will be having a special Mission Festival preacher and presentation from Pastor James Mattek of Christian Family Solutions. You may recall that our congregation entered the MAP (Member Assistance Program) this year. This Mission Festival will help us understand what that program is and the value of our congregation being part of it.

Join us, then, on September 25 for this Mission Festival Sunday. The timing and location of the services that day are:

Worship Service Time: 9:30 am

Worship Service Location: Black River Falls Campus

Bible Class Presentation and Sunday School: 10:45 am

Church Potluck: 12:00 pm

Here is some information about Christian Family Solutions:

Christian Family Solutions provides professional Christian counseling services and care for seniors.

Our Christian family counseling services are provided in person to individuals and families in our outpatient clinics and day treatment facilities, and are available via secure video to individuals and organizations worldwide. Our senior services are provided to adults in their homes and in our assisted living facilities.

Our Christian family counseling and senior services are supported through the generosity of our donors.

OUR MISSION Healing and helping people in need through the ministry of Jesus Christ

OUR CORE VALUES We humbly believe that God has blessed us with the incredible privilege of healing and helping people in need. In response to his overwhelming love for us, we honor him by conducting ourselves and our work according to the following core values:

We are **CHRIST-CENTERED**. Our ultimate goal is to reflect the love of Jesus to those we serve, impacting them in this life and for eternity.

We **SERVE INDIVIDUALS** in need. We are a partner and resource to the communities we serve, delivering healing, help, and hope.

SERVICE TIME CHANGE

Its happening this month! Our Sunday morning worship service times will change on Sunday September 11. On that Sunday, our worship, Bible class, and Sunday School schedule will be as follows:

8 am Worship in Black River Falls

9:15 am Bible Class and Sunday School in Black River Falls

9:45 am Worship in Cataract

11 am Bible Class and Sunday School in Cataract



Meet Our New Members

Over the last few months, three women have joined our congregation either by Adult Profession of faith or transfer. Let's take a moment to meet these new members.



Karla Yahnke

On May 1st, Karla joined our congregation and fellowship by profession of Faith.

Karla lives in Sparta and has been working as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Rolling Hills Rehabilitation Center and Home since 1999. She has two adult children: a daughter Lindsay and a son Josh.

Karla loves to cook and spend time with family and friends.



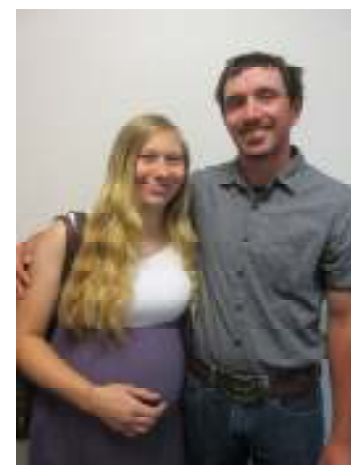
Gemma Rieck

On June 26th, Gemma joined our congregation and fellowship through adult confirmation.

Prior to her retirement in 2006, Gemma worked as an over-the road trucker with her husband Rodney, as well as a punch press operator in Onalaska. Her husband passed away in 2021. They had been married for 36 years.

Gemma loves animals, both those you might find in a house as well as those you find on a farm. She is also blessed with three children: Sabrina, Jim, and Melissa.

Gemma rejoices at the way Jesus works in our lives, through the word and through other people. She is grateful for the family of believers she has found at Faith and appreciates the fellowship she shares with the believers here.



Ashley Dobson

On July 3, Ashley joined our congregation and fellowship by means of transfer from St. Matthew's Lutheran Church (our sister congregation in Winona, MN)

Ashley married Michael Dobson in 2021, and just this month (August) the Lord blessed them with the gift of a baby boy – Luke Donovan.

In addition to being a new mother, Ashley is a home-daycare provider and her husband is a tractor technician. She enjoys horseback riding, baking, reading, hunting, fishing, and spending time with family.



Black River Falls Location
N6598 County Rd A
Black River Falls WI 54615

Cataract Location
N6774 Acorn Ave
Cataract WI 54656

N6774 Acorn Ave.
Sparta, WI 54656

Phone 715-284-0772

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is a part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a church body with congregations in all fifty states and missionaries in 25 countries.

We are a Christ Preaching Church! We believe, teach and confess that Jesus is God's own Son, who came into the world to be the Savior of all people so that through his sufferings, death and resurrection, we might have forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We're on the Web!
www.faithwels.com

BIRTHDAYS	
Karla Yahnke	9/6
Derek Southwood	9/8
Jon Mlsna	9/18
Channing Manske	9/18
Rudy Jeseritz	9/19
Majesta Powell	9/23
Danielle Pryor	9/28
Jan Eggen	9/28
Mary Christie	9/29

ANNIVERSARIES	
Jeff + Penny Nicolai	9/7
Dale + Emily Timm	9/14

The Messenger is published monthly for the congregation and friends of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church. Its purpose is to provide information regarding all areas of congregational news and to offer enlightening articles.

Anyone wishing to contribute articles, contact—in person or by email—or Laura Mueller: muellerlaura@hotmail.com or Pastor Neumann: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com

Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.



A God-Lived Life Stewardship Challenge

Stewardship is about more than money. *It's our whole lives.* Jesus lived his life and gave his life for us. Our loving response is to imitate that.

Starting this month, and then for the three months after that, God's Word will be challenging us, and we'll be challenging one another to live a God-lived life. And that encompasses everything. We will be talking about a life of being a disciple, a life lived for others, a life of hospitality, and a life lived shrewdly.

Each month, we will be introduced to a challenge that we then prayerfully commit to carrying out the rest of the month. How will we commit to the challenges? As individual members, we are going to fill out a different challenge card each month. This will help to involve our entire family of faith in the challenges and help us encourage each other in the challenges. May God bless us as we grow in his Word and in our lives of living it!

This month, the particular focus of the God-lived life is that of being a disciple, a learner, one who grows in God's Word. May God's Word cause us to crave that pure spiritual milk so that by it we grow up in our salvation.

Our challenge card this month will focus on growing and learning in God's Word. What's your biggest motivation for spending time in God's Word? What's your biggest obstacle to spending time in God's Word? What can help you overcome that obstacle? How can you build Bible study and prayer time into your regular routine?

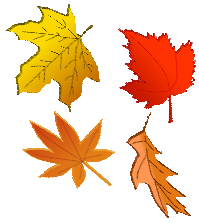
This special focus will be Sunday, September 11, and purposefully coincides with the beginning of our Sunday Bible Study hour of bible class and Sunday school. Please also note that a four session midweek Bible study will be held during September as well. Week one starts before our challenge on Wednesday, September 7. Come and join us as we live a life of being a disciple and get a jump start on your challenge.

May God bless the coming weeks as we commit to living a God-lived life of discipleship!



JESUS CARES MINISTRIES
Worship at the Cross

Next Worship at the Cross will be
Saturday, September 24, at 1 pm



Choir

A new choir season is about to begin, starting **Wednesday, September 7th, at 6:15**. New members are always welcome to join us in singing God's praises!

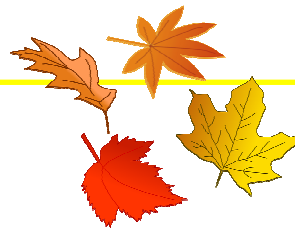


BRF Landscape Brigade

Consider helping the BRF Landscape Brigade on Saturday, September 10, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. This month we will be putting down mulch, dead-heading and doing some weeding. The Landscape Brigade will meet the second Saturday of each month, April through October, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you would like to.

Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include discussing our prospect follow-up guidelines. Our meeting will take place Sunday, September 18, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.



More Than Conquerors

Everyone wants to be a winner, but we often feel like losers. We work so hard to be the best and do our best. We want to be loving husbands, caring fathers, faithful church members, hardworking employees, good neighbors and so much more. We try, but it's easy to feel conquered. The devil is constantly attacking us. The world lures us away from God and responsibility. Our sinful natures condemn us. Should we just give up?

No! God promises that we are MORE THAN CONQUERORS through him who loved us (Romans 8:37). Not only does God promise strength for our battles now; he promises MORE - that nothing will separate us from his love until we live with him in eternal joy as CONQUERORS. Join us in Rochester, MN on Saturday, October 22, 2022 to find strength for the battles and guaranteed victory through Christ.

The cost of this conference will be covered by our Faith Congregation. Early bird registration is \$50 for an adult and \$30 for youth.

More information can be found in the gathering area, together with a sign-up sheet of those interested in going.



10 Lies about God (Bible Study)

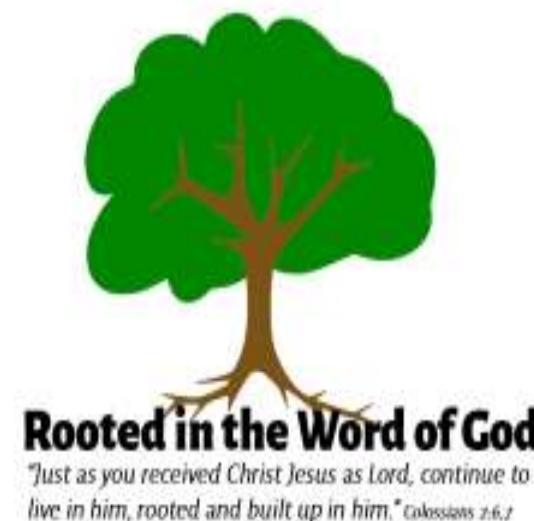
You may have experienced something like this: during a serious conversation, a person says something about God that just doesn't sound right. Sometimes you can recognize that what the person believes is a horrible distortion of the truth. Sometimes you aren't so sure. "God wants me to be happy." "I don't need the Bible or worship to have a relationship with God." "God helps those who help themselves."

Despite their catchy, positive appeal, these sayings and others like them have dangerous implications for Christian theology. Sometimes people's views – even well intentioned Christian's views – about God are influenced by such sayings or slogans. The danger is that many of those sayings or slogans are outright lies of Satan, aimed at destroying faith.

This Bible study will address ten popular lies about God. It will help us recognize and respond to these deceptions in order to guard our faith and help others experience the peace and joy that comes through forgiveness in Christ.

Starting Sunday, September 11 at our Cataract Campus. This Bible Study begins at 11 am and goes until noon.

Stay Rooted in the Word of God – Come to Sunday Morning Bible Class!



What's the first plant part that emerges from a germinating seed? The root! Roots are essential for a plant to live, grow, and prosper. It's no wonder the Holy Spirit had Paul use that imagery in his letter of concern and encouragement to the Colossians: "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him." A new round of Sunday morning Bible education begins at our Black River Falls location on Sunday, September 11. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to deepen your roots into God's Word. There will be an adult and teen Bible study and "Sunday School" classes

will be held for pre-K through 6th grade children. We will be using the same lesson schedule from the Christ-Light curriculum for all the classes to stimulate conversations at home. All classes run from 9:15-10:15 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt.

GET READY FOR BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will begin for all 6th-8th grade children on Wednesday, September 7th at 5:30 p.m.

Getting to Know Your Bible Better

When was the last time you reviewed the basic teachings of the Bible and how those teachings applied to your life? Do you have questions about Communion, Baptism, prayer, marriage, money, parenting, or death? This class covers each of those topics, plus much more. This class is for anyone and everyone. It is an introduction to the Christian faith for those who have not been confirmed or would like to join Faith, as well as a review for those who have.

This class begins Thursday, September 22, at 6:30 p.m. in Black River Falls

Keep an eye on the bulletin for the latest information.

Ladies Aid—Cataract

The Ladies Aid will have their first meeting on Thursday, September 8 at 12:30 p.m. at Karen Yahnke's house. All ladies who are members of Faith are welcome to attend.

Ladies of Faith—Black River Falls

The Ladies of Faith will have their first meeting on Tuesday, September 13 at 6 p.m. at our Black River Falls campus. All ladies who are members of Faith are welcome to attend.

Paul's Word to Families (Bible Study)

Whether it is gender identity, rebellious children, feminism, roles of husband and wife, divorce, or a whole host of other things, the family is under attack in our society today. So how do we stem the tide of destruction? How do Christians keep from getting caught in the blender of ruin? The answer is God's Word.

This Bible Study will explore St. Paul's words of encouragement and instruction for families. Through this study you will gain insight into what it means to be a child of God in the context of your family. These insights will help you as you go about your task of living in the Word and will equip you for a more fruitful walk of faith. The four lessons will focus on:

- Session 1 (September 7): Paul's Word about Roles
- Session 2 (September 14): Paul's Word about Justification
- Session 3 (September 21): Paul's Word about Discipline
- Session 4 (September 28): Paul's Word about Values

**This Bible Study will be streamed on Facebook Live on Wednesdays and then uploaded to our YouTube channel each week.*

**Child care will be provided during this Bible Study so that those with younger children can also attend.*

**This Bible Study will be held on Wednesday's at our Black River Falls campus. We begin at 7 pm and go until 8.*

Gauging Interest



Each year Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), our pastor training seminary, hosts a Friends of the Seminary Day. On this day men and women gather to learn more about the vital mission of the seminary. Presentations highlight some of the ways the faculty and students are serving Christ's church on a wider scale on and off the campus. This gives WELS members the opportunity to enjoy fellowship, receive encouraging support, and provides people with the opportunity to support WLS as an offering is gathered to support a project on campus.

This day includes coffee fellowship, worship, presentations, a light luncheon, and campus tours for those who wish to participate.

This year's Friends of the Seminary Day is Saturday, October 1. Registration begins at 8 am. 9 am to noon is worship followed by presentations. There is a lunch at noon with an optional seminary tour starting at 12:45.

We are seeking to gauge whether there would be interest within our congregation to participate in this day. If so, please sign up in the gathering area.

Go hunting with FiSH!

Invite your friends to a fun afternoon scavenger hunting on Saturday, September 10, in Black River Falls! You'll drive around BRF in teams, looking for an eclectic assortment of information (e.g. identify the 3 animal species represented at Mill's Park). Teams will be formed at 2:00 p.m. and then they will have 2 hours to find as many of the objects as possible.



Treats will be served at while the scores are tallied and the whole thing will be done by 5 p.m. FiSH is a social group geared toward recreational activities for adults, single or married, younger or older.

WOW!



Over 53 boxes of rummage went to the Good Steward Resale Shop on August 20, 2022. Ultimately these will provide financial support for Luther High School. Thank you to everyone that donated! FiSH will plan on doing this again next summer.

FROM THE LIBRARY

The church history section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at the BRF location has the book, *Luther - Biography of a Reformer* by Frederick Nohl. Through this book, you will learn that Luther was an imperfect man of God who knew his own weaknesses and sins and who did not depend on himself but on Christ

To checkout, write the date, your name, and the name of the book/DVD/CD in the notebook on the shelf.

To return, put the book/DVD/CD into the basket on the shelf and cross out your entry in the notebook.



Faith Ev. Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary

August 15th, 2022

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a bible study of the 5th commandment

Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Scott Templeton, Grady Severson, Tyler Jessie, Dave Spaude

ELDER'S REPORT

A God Lived Life is a synod distributed program aimed at our Stewardship to God in truth, talents, hospitality, and treasure. One topic will be covered one Sunday per month in the months of September, October, November, and December.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor presented a statistical report for the months of June and July. Average attendance in June was 77 (85 including online use). Average attendance in July was 83 (90 including online use).

Church service times will be switching back to the normal times beginning September 11th

Pastor encouraged the council to make use of the Bible Study options for their own personal faith growth as well as setting an example for the members of our congregation.

Pastor James Mattek from Christian Family Solutions will be leading our Mission Festival, September 25th. There will be one service in Black River Falls at 9:30 am and a bible class at 10:45. A potluck will follow, please bring a dish to pass.

There will be a door offering that will support the work of Christian Family Solutions. If the collection amount does not total at least \$500, the balance will be taken from the budget. MSC

Pastor updated the council on the planned schedule for the Youth Group this year. Anyone grades 7 – 12 is welcome to attend. He also informed them that he volunteered to be part of an organizing committee in our area that will plan a few local WELS Youth Nights throughout the year.

The cost of the “Men of the Word” Conference will be covered by the congregation. The conference is held at the end of October

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Day and WELS National Conference on Lutheran Leadership are having upcoming events. Pastor will make these events known and check to see if there is interest. Please let pastor know if you have any interest.

Pastor will be gone on vacation August 18 - 29

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tyler presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$8,774.91 through the end of July 2022. MSC to accept financial report for July, 2022

SPECIAL REPORTS

Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt. Four things highlighted were:

Bible Soccer Camp. The Outreach Committee and Pastor will be reviewing this next time they meet

We are getting close to having our new structure set for prospect follow-ups.

Website coordinator is an important position

Discussing how to have a structure in place for updating church membership photos

Property Committee – The projector for the Cataract location is in and will be installed in September.

We will be pre-booking 700 gallons of LP gas for the winter for the Cataract location.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer

Recorded by Garrett Jessie



CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

August 2022

Diabetes, A Growing Public Health Concern

Zambia is one of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa that is seeing an increase in the non-communicable diseases. This article focuses on the story of diabetic patients at the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Central (LMRHC) in Shibuyunji District of Central Province in Zambia. The number of adults with diabetes mellitus has been growing in recent years.

It is important to mention that the LMRHC is motivated to serve by Christ's love. This has been demonstrated by all of our supporters who have helped in many different ways through donations of pill bottles, children's clothes and money through the Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM). It is the same support that has come down to help many of the patients at the LMRHC.

Management of patients can be a challenge especially with diabetes, because of the high cost of drugs which require a lifelong uptake and the multidisciplinary approach needed for a successful outcome.

The LMRHC has 76 registered diabetic patients of which 19 are insulin dependent and 57 are non- insulin dependent. These patients come to clinic for drugs once a month. They are given health education on food and the importance of a diabetic diet. Mr Kalekwa, the Clinical officer in Charge checks their glucose and blood pressure. He gives them instructions when their glucose is high or very low. One day, he told these patients that the clinic is considering no longer providing diabetes medications for all those who come from outside of our catchment area. This brought a lot of discussion amongst the patients who started pleading and said, “stopping buying drugs for us would be a death sentence”. They said, some of them would have not been alive had it not been for LMRHC. The mission is helping a lot and it is like a mother to them. They brought up names of diabetic patients who died when they left the area. Patients said they are poor and cannot afford to buy drugs. Some of them told stories of how they suffered before they started treatment. Because of good care, testing of glucose and health education, patients find our clinic to be the best in diabetic services. Three patients come all the way from Lusaka, five from Kabwe rural. One patient came all the way from Kasama in Northern province of Zambia. She was in a very bad state. The clinic managed to control her glucose. After four months, she requested to be transferred to Nangoma Mission Hospital. Due to poor management there, the patient was brought back to our clinic (LMRHC). The members of staff at LMRHC understand that if diabetic patients stop taking drugs, they can have complications and then later die.

Through your generosity all who come to our door will hear the Word of God, receive Christ-centered Health Care and all of our diabetic patients will receive medications no matter where they come from.

God chose us to do the work that He already prepared for HIS children to do, As His children we are merely the “vessels” to carry out the mission left by Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:1-2 (NIV) “Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”

Alisad Banda, Clinic Administrator- Zambia

MONETARY Donations may be made by Check: Payable to Central Africa Medical Mission and Mailed to: WELS Gift Processing N16 W23377 Stone Ridge Drive Waukesha WI 53188 Or MONETARY Donations to CAMM online @ www.camm.us/donate-to-camm