

*“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news.” (Isaiah 52:7)*

On Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, I will be leaving for Cape Town, South Africa. This will be my seventh trip to South Africa and my fifteenth to the African continent. This trip is extra special because it is my first one since coming to First Lutheran and it is also the first time that my wife Lisa will be able to accompany me. The purpose of the trip is to conduct a training seminar for pastors in one of the most heavily populated and poverty-stricken areas of Africa—the Cape Flats region on the outskirts of Cape Town.

The pastors who serve in “The Flats” are the embodiment of the words in the verse above—Isaiah 52:7. They are leading churches because they have been called by God. They make very little money, because the people they serve have very little to put into the offering plate. Most of the pastors have to work full time jobs (if they can find them) in addition to their pastoral duties. They are godly, faithful, hard-working men. Most of them have wives and children. And they serve their churches with great joy and enthusiasm. I feel humbled when I am in their presence.

But one thing that these men lack is formal Biblical and pastoral training. Most of them have gone through the public school system in South Africa, which is often subpar, especially in the poorer areas. But they were never able to go beyond that, because they lacked the funds to go to a university or a Bible college. Many are pastoring their churches with only a beat-up Bible and a willing heart. This is where we can help.

In 2009, I was approached by a member of my church in Lindenhurst named Bob Yarbrough. Bob was the chairman of the New Testament department at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (TEDS) in Deerfield, just a few miles from Lindenhurst (Bob has since taken a new position at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis). Bob had been traveling to the African nation of Sudan since 1999. He was doing pastor training events twice a year for the struggling Christian churches in that Muslim-dominated country.

When Bob traveled to Sudan, he always took a pastor with him, so that he could do the Bible teaching and the pastor could teach about some of the practical aspects of pastoral ministry. He approached me because the pastor who had been traveling with him told him that he could no longer go with him. He wondered if I would be his new traveling companion and fellow teacher. We have been teaching together in Africa ever since.

We taught for several years in Sudan, until the Muslim government decided to kick us out. In fact, we were nearly arrested on our last trip there, but by the hand of God, we managed to get out of the country. We then started conducting training seminars in the new nation of South Sudan. How that happened is a minor miracle in itself. But the trips to South Sudan came to an end when a bloody civil war erupted there in 2013.

Then, out of the blue, we received an invitation to go to Cape Town, South Africa. The invitation came from one of Bob’s former students, who is now teaching at a small Bible College there. The college was trying to find a way to reach out to the pastors in the Flats, to give them some training and support in their ministries. We went there for the first time in 2014 and have now conducted six seminars. This trip will be the seventh.

Bob will be teaching on the book of Galatians. I will be teaching on “Christian Education and Youth Ministry.” We will also bring some funds from St. Mark Lutheran Church in Lindenhurst and from all of you here at First Lutheran Church. The funds will help out several pastors and their churches. I look forward to talking with the Cape Town pastors about my new friends here at First Lutheran. They will be eager to hear all about you. And I will make sure that they know where Princeton, Illinois, is on the map!

Keep us in your prayers while we’re in Africa. I will be gone for only one Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Phil Gronbach will be here that Sunday to conduct services and to preach. Lisa and I will return home late on the evening of October 20<sup>th</sup>. After a day of rest, we will see you all in church on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We’ll have lots of stories to share. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

Pastor Bill

	<b>PASTOR SHIELDS BIBLE STUDIES!</b>	<b>No Bible Study will be held on Wed., Oct. 18 &amp; Thurs., Oct. 19</b>
	Pastor Shields is holding 2 weekly Bible studies 11am - Wednesdays 7pm - Thursdays	
	The lessons are the same for both studies each week, so if you miss Wednesday morning, you can attend Thursday evening to keep up. If you can't make it every week, come when you can. The book of Genesis is focus. Mark your calendars!	

### Council Summary:

The Council met on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Minutes from August, as well as the Financial Secretary’s and Treasurer’s Reports were approved.

Pastor gave his report. Along with his usual duties, Confirmation class has begun, he took one vacation day and his trip to Africa is coming up October 13<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Phil Gronbach will preach in his absence.

Attendance for August was 79.

Property – Discussion on nursery updates, bell tower louvers painted, flat roofs painted, parking lot poles painted, tuck pointing on bell tower done, bell repaired & pigeon residue removed by Gary Pierson, cross repaired, flower beds cleaned and mulched (thank you Tom & Jo), Little Free Library up and running.

Service & Mission – Serve at Our Table on October 17<sup>th</sup>, looking into mission trip in 2018 possibly to one of the hurricane areas.

Outreach & Fellowship – Golf Outing September 17, planning Christmas Caroling on December 17<sup>th</sup>, Harvest Party/Hayride October 28<sup>th</sup>, scheduling fall clean-up at some Gateway homes.

Youth & Education – Rally Day September 17<sup>th</sup>, Confirmation September 6<sup>th</sup>, HS Bible Study at Pastor’s September 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Program December 17<sup>th</sup> / practice on 16<sup>th</sup>, no Kid’s Club Dec. 24 & 31, Nursery committee working with Property on updating nursery room.

*(continued)*

Worship & Prayer – Moved Confirmation Sunday to the last Sunday in April, will hold 3 Wednesday night Advent services with soup & sandwich suppers, looking for special music on Thanksgiving Eve in addition to choir, plans are in place for the Carol Sing on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

Finance & Stewardship – \$10,853 behind in giving, stewardship mailing scheduled for November 21, we will be ready to accept electronic deposits in 2018, 5% increase in health insurance for 2018.

Endowment – Council approved the following payments: 1. \$8500 Building fund 2. \$3000 WMPL/Adamow's 3. \$500 Buddy Bags 4. \$1000 Freedom House 5. \$1000 BC Food Pantry 6. \$1000 Gateway Services 7. \$1000 WUNT Radio 8. \$3000 college tuition for South African pastoral students.

Old business – Thanks to Jim & Sue Scruggs for the use of their facility for the retreat. Talked of having one again in January. Audio/Visual equipment arrived and should allow us to post sermons on our web site and air them on WUNT.

New business – St. Matthew is hosting Spaghetti Supper to benefit Ministerial Assistance Fund. Because of the greater needs this summer, the fund is nearly depleted. Encourage people to attend.



## SUNDAY OCTOBER 29<sup>TH</sup> REFORMATION PARTY!

No Adult class that day.  
Adults join the kids in the Fellowship Hall for cake & punch and then a rousing game of Hollywood Squares!  
Brush up on your knowledge of Martin Luther.

Everyone is welcome even if you only want to witness the chaos!

**SUPER SUNDAY** – two youngest classes will have a treasure hunt!



**ALTAR FLOWER OPEN DATES:**  
October 22 - November 12, 19  
December 3, 10, 17, 31  
Please notify the office  
if you wish to take  
one of these dates.



## GLOBAL MISSIONS

GM is a ministry that provides Christian materials to people all over the world. Do you have a Bible, some study books, Sunday School Supplies or other devotional materials that you no longer wish to hang on to? They can be "recycled" to bring the word of God to other parts of the world. Bring them in, *you don't have to buy anything*, and they will be taken to Bloomington with our quilts, school kits and personal care kits. Bring them by October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Annual Auction Coming Soon Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>



The dry erase boards will be appearing soon. Sign-up your donation this year. Look over the items others are planning to bring. Be creative! We have had everything from antiques, to gift certificates, to personal talents like baking, special prepared meals or landscaping help, trees, etc., etc.

Bring your friends that day and all of us will enjoy a great meal of our best potluck dishes, laughter and fellowship. If you have never come before, you don't know what you're missing!

We hope you have been depositing your loose change in the Cross Bank in the back! Let's fill it up by November 12<sup>th</sup>. Questions, please see Jim/Sue.

## LCW News



September was a busy month for the LCW. On September 1<sup>st</sup>, we had our Lunch in the Park Bake Sale. Thanks to all who baked delicious goodies, set-up, cleaned up, and worked during the sale. We made \$313, which was better than last year. We appreciate your support of this fundraiser.

On September 7<sup>th</sup>, we provided 6 workers for the Church Women United Bloodmobile serving refreshments to those donating blood.

On Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at worship, was our Quilt and Prayer Shawl Dedication. 80 quilts graced the pews and 26 prayer shawls decorated the Altar rail. Quilts go to Lutheran World Relief and are sent all over the world. Prayer Shawls are offered locally to those who may be ill or needing some TLC. The Church looked beautiful and we pray these items will bring comfort to those who receive them.

If you are aware of someone who could use the comfort of a Prayer Shawl, (*does not have to be a church member*) contact Sue Eggers or the Church Office. Quilters meet at 1pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays and Prayer Shawl makers meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. Join one of these groups for fantastic fellowship. You don't have to know how to sew, knit or crochet, they will teach you. Thank you ladies, for the gift of your talent.

The OWLs Worship & Pie Social is scheduled for Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm, JoAnn Klopping and Gay Kyle are hosting.

The second event on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, is the final pack for Lutheran World Relief following worship. We are collecting Bibles or other devotional materials you may like to "recycle". Personal care kits, school kits, quilts and devotional materials will all be packed up for delivery to Bloomington, Illinois before the end of the month.

The cancelled Rebekah Road Trip is becoming a trip to see "Church Basement Ladies 2". Watch for details.

October birthday girls are: Barb Fiste, Mary Dorsch, Ruth Eklof, Betty O'Koniewski, Arvilla Kuhn, and Lucile Munson. Happy Birthday, ladies!

**ENJOY YOUR FALL...HOPE IT'S COOLER!**



### NURSERY OPEN FOR BUSINESS ON SUNDAYS!

There are now two people staffing the nursery every Sunday after the Children's Sermon. A committee is also working to refurbish the room. Check out the table in the back for suggestions of donations needed. If you can offer a Sunday of caring for our smallest members, please tell Cindy Pierson or contact the office.

**Additional Help!** Did you know that on most Sunday's there are about 20 tasks that need to be done as part of our worship and fellowship time. This does not count Pastor, the accompanist/organist, acolyte, choir or even Sunday School. On a Communion Sunday, that number goes up to 24. If you have looked over the "At Your Service" page, you also see that there are many of the same people performing multiple tasks. Sometimes it is difficult to find enough people to cover all of these areas. Is there something you can do? Can you read a lesson, be a greeter, collect the offering, pray, serve communion, if you like coffee, can you make it several times a year? If you work some Sundays, tell us when you are free. Every effort is made to make your service convenient for you. The stewardship drive is coming soon, please consider trying something new.



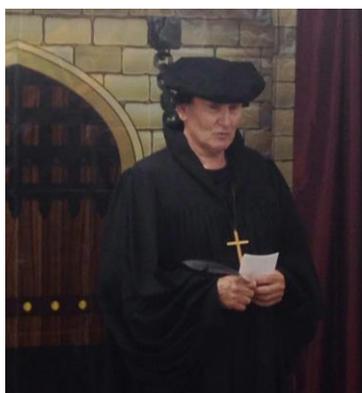
Thanks  
Pete & Gail  
For risking your necks  
taking care of our  
church!



Thank you – Library Committee (Laurie, Lynne & Barb) for the great idea of having our own Little Free Library. Madison Kloster decorated the cute little house and Pete May installed the post for it. Definitely a team effort and it is being used!



Thanks  
Tom & Jo  
Kloster for  
your work on  
our flower  
beds!



Thank you,  
Dale Fiste  
For bringing Martin  
Luther to our kids  
as we learn more  
about him this fall!

Thank you,  
Lani Swinford for keeping the planter on  
our sign decorated for each season.  
Looks beautiful!

**BE THE MATCH!**  
**Bone Marrow Registry Drive  
& Open House**  
Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> - 9am-3pm  
105 S. Main St., Suite 2 – Princeton  
*You could save a life!*  
Lunch provided  
Sponsored by  
Steve Becker, Thrivent Rep.