



St. Paul's Lutheran Church October, 2009 'Newsletter'

Journey to Africa A Doctor's Loving Service written by Dr. Scott Harrison in 1987

Malawi...I'd never even heard of this small country in southeastern Africa until a few months ago. But several magazine articles I'd read recently described an epidemic of polio in this little nation and their need for medical help. After writing to the only orthopedic surgeon in this country of seven million people, about the size of my own state of Pennsylvania. I had decided to lend a hand, or in my case, my abilities as a surgeon. The pastor of our church had asked me to speak Sunday morning about why I was taking time from my practice here in Harrisburg and going to such a primitive country. Simple enough, but it was Saturday afternoon and I was still uncertain of what to say.

I turned to my wife, Sally. "It's just dawned on me that I don't really know why I'm going," I said. "It sounds sort of smug to say that I'm going to help poor, suffering people in Africa, or to bring them Western technology. I realize that we won't make much of a dent in their problems."

Sally laughed. "Well, at least I know why I'm going," she said. It's because you're going and God sees us as one! That was her answer, but I kept groping for mine. Sick people are there, I told myself and I am a physician. After all, Jesus didn't talk about blindness, He restored sight. He didn't analyze the paralyzed, He caused them to walk. He didn't discuss the philosophy of disease, He wiped away the scales of the leper.

It took us four planes and forty eight hours to reach Malawi. The next morning I was too tired to think as my first clinic began. An endless parade of black faces began passing in front of me. Young mothers with hungry infants, old men.. their skin deeply etched by the hot sun, and children, so many children, attacked by infections long forgotten in our Western world. They slowly slid along the bench from the waiting hall. Then, presenting soiled index cards with their life's medical history on it, they waited what might be done for them.

Scribbled on a typical card: "Fell from a tree three days ago, arm deformed, needs correction." This patient had walked twenty miles to that first medical outpost where the splint was applied. It was another couple of days before he finally got here to the main hospital. He had endured a long delay before treatment, but he showed no anger at the long wait.

How different all this seemed from the frantic life at home. My rigid time schedule, my frustration at being late for an appointment...all that seemed so senseless now. Almost unreal.

These people have something special. A kind of serenity. They live close to God's earth and are part of His seasons. They live by His clock...and it doesn't seem to have a minute or second hand.

Reading The Shack

Many of you have asked about having a discussion of the bestselling book. The Shack. This book has reached the hearts and minds of millions of people with its story of a compassionate and loving God entering the life of a man who has spent several years filled with guilt, after evil had struck his daughter on a camping trip in the Oregon mountains. He faces what he calls The Great Sadness, a difficult time that many of us have faced, when we have asked ourselves, Where is God in my life?

The book uses unusual characters to describe how God enters our lives as the Trinity, as three persons in one. It raises important questions about how God acts in the world and whether real forgiveness is possible.

I urge you to read the book and come to the two discussions we have scheduled: Wed. Oct. 21, 7:00 pm at Trinity and Wed. Nov. 4, 7:00 pm at St. Paul's. You are invited to attend either or both sessions. Copies of the book are available to check out at both churches, at the Gaylord Public Library, or you can find it easily at Amazon.com or at any bookstore. Even if you can't read the whole book, you will still get a lot out of the discussions at both Trinity and St. Paul's. *Pastor Bill*

Worship Attendance

Sept. 6	43
13	102
20	46
27	47



Fall is a season filled with wonderful sights and sounds. The color of the leaves on the trees can often be spectacular, the fields in the Gaylord area are being harvested, and there is that certain chill in the air that reminds you that another season has ended and another is just beginning.

When I was reading and typing up the article on the front page about the doctor in Africa, I thought of Brad Strobel. Brad was at St. Paul's and Trinity last Sunday and gave a Temple Talk and told about his work in Uganda, Africa. You could tell he loved his work.

Brad will be speaking at UCC tonight at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Great opportunity to hear him tell about the need to have compassion, love and education for the children who live in poverty. A special offering was held to help support the work Brad is doing in Uganda. Amount: \$180.05

It has been 15 years since the "Welcome to Gaylord Churches" signs have been erected. The signs have weathered and darkened so that the West entrance one is hard to read. It has been suggested that the lettering be painted lighter—a white or yellow—to make it visible again. Each church was asked to contribute \$25.00, paint included, to redo the signs. Watch for the improvements.

Have you checked out St. Paul's new website?
stpaulsgaylord.lutheranweb.net

Another school year has begun and so have the fundraisers. Immanuel Lutheran School is again saving "Our Family" UPC symbols and General Mills 'Box Tops For Education.' The labels/tops are turned in for cash to be used for items in the classrooms.

The annual Fall Theological Conference will be held Oct. 18-21 at St. Cloud. Primary presenters will be Rev. David Lose of Luther Seminary and Rev. Susan Briehl, former director of Holden Village and presently is a Professor at Wartburg Seminary at Dubuque, IA. By action of the 1988 Synod Assembly, all pastors are expected to attend.

Winthrop Covenant Church is starting an AWANA Club on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30 pm. We invite all kids, ages 3 through 6th grade, to join us for fun, games and learning each Wednesday night. You may register on October 7th at Winthrop Covenant. For more information call 507-647-5777. Registration forms are in the church office.

Our feet say a lot about us. It isn't their size. It's not their shape. It's where they are—and where they have been! The funny thing about feet is that wherever they go, head and heart usually follow.

There will be an informal congregational meeting following the worship service on October 11 to discuss the dishwasher and kitchen updates and improvements. The meeting will be in the fellowship hall.

High School Graduates, 2009 Where are they?

Sean Dietz	St. Cloud Tech.
Bethany Trout	St. Cloud Tech
Lance Messner	Dakota Co. Tech
Brittany Schmerbauch	South Central Tech.

On the Lighter Side

A grey-hair elderly lady, long time member of her church and community, shook hands with the minister after the service one Sunday morning. "That was a wonderful sermon," she told him, "just wonderful. Everything you said applies to someone I know."



October

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 1:30 pm Oak Terrace Communion	2 1:00 pm Faith Builders mtg. at Redwood Falls	3
4 10:00 am Joint Jazz Service/Communion 11:00 am Spuds & Splits Fundraiser	5 Pastor... Academy Board Mtg.	6 Pastor... Academy Board Mtg.	7 6:00 pm Confirmation at St. Paul's	8 Pastor...College Board Mtg.	9 Pastor...College Board Mtg.	10 Pastor...College Board Mtg.
11 8:30 am Worship 8:30 am Sun School 9:30 am Cong. Mtg. 6:30 pm Church Council	12 9:00 am Naomi Circle	13 9:00 am MN Valley Conference Pastor's mtg. at GA College	14 6:00 pm Confirmation Class at St. Paul's	15 12 noon Gaylord Ministerium	16	17 9:00 am WELCA Fall Gathering 3:15 pm Fall Hayride Party at Bethke farm
18 8:30 am Worship 8:30 am Sun School Fall Theo. Conf. at St. Cloud	19 Fall Theological Conference at St. Cloud	20 Fall Theological Conference at St. Cloud	21 Fall Theological Conf. at St. Cloud 6:00 pm Confirmation Class	22 Pastor...Seminar at St. Louis	23 Pastor...Seminar at St. Louis	24 Pastor...Seminar at St. Louis
25 8:30 am <i>Reformation Sunday Service</i> 8:30 am Sun School	26 Pastor...Seminar at St. Louis	27 12:00 noon South Africa Ptshp Mtg. at Winthrop	28 6:00 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Joint Board at Trinity	29	30	31

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