



The Emmanuel Lutheran June 2017

Upcoming Events

June 25: Potluck Brunch @ 11:30 am; Birthday party for Orlow Widvey @ 12 noon

Pastor's Pen

Teens in the Bible have changed the direction of the world.

Greetings everyone and may the Lord Jesus bless you as the school draws to a close. For the last fifty years I have been teaching youth confirmation classes. Before that, as a seminary student, I taught a couple years at the Milwaukee County school for delinquent youth (politically correct expression at that time) both boys and girls, and before that I served as spiritual counselor for youth summer camps for 3 years.

I have always especially loved to teach teens. I've taught high school students, college day students, graduate college students, scores of adult confirmation classes, but after it is all said and done I prefer to work with and share the Gospel with teens.

That's why I save the lessons (please take the time to read these sections for greater understanding) of 2 Kings 5ff., and 1

Samuel 3 for the last class of the year. This afternoon (5/16/17) we had a great class as I helped the boys and girls find themselves in the Scriptures. The bottom line was the recitation and discussion of other passages they had learned over the year that supported the chosen references above. The bottom line was that in everything that we say, think, and do we should begin and end with the question: "What does the Word of God say?"

In anticipation of next year, I have developed the course for confirmation classes (2017-18). The summer break will afford an opportunity for all of us to review what we have learned over the school year. It will not only give a chance to repair our bodies, but nurture our minds and gain peace for our souls. With the changes in school district schedules it will be an interesting challenge to co-ordinate all the kids from 4 different districts.

One of the things I plan to do is produce devotions for the summer months. I hope to post to the Internet (Facebook, YouTube, our church web page, Vimeo, and Twitter), pieces of Scripture that will give everyone a chance to gather their thoughts around The Word no matter where they may be.

I want to thank all who have helped with the teaching of the children. I have especially in mind all those who helped in any way with our congregation's Sunday School program. With the various personal schedules, health problems, and family

activities it has been hard to maintain a regular program and consistent curriculum. But the Lord has blessed the efforts in His name and we have been able to count on many volunteers to help the youth grow spiritually. To everyone who helped: a big "Thank you!"

Pastor Kogler

Birthday Party

Following the Congregational Potluck on June 25th, Orlow Widvey's family will be celebrating his 95th birthday.

They will be providing cake and punch to those who want to stay and join them in celebrating Orlow's birthday.

Please e-mail office by Monday, June 12th if you plan to attend so enough cake may be ordered. Thanks.
emmanuelhudsonwi@gmail.com

K.I.C.K. (Kids In Christ's Knowledge)

Thank you for another great year of K.I.C.K.

We've had many wonderful outings and service projects this year. Some of our favorites were the corn maze, bowling, and serving waffles.

I want to thank everyone who supported or participated this year. We would not be a group without you. We will not have a June or July activity. We plan to start again in August or September. Have a safe and fun summer!

Women of Emmanuel (WE)

If you have questions about WE, please speak with Sarah Dahlke, Janet Kogler, or Leslie Stelling.

Adult Forum & Weekday Bible Class

Adult Forum, Bible Classes, Sunday School, & Youth Group/IGNiTE are currently on a summer break, and will return in September.

Summer Preaching Series & Potlucks

We're planning the summer sermons to be from the lectionary Epistles.

There will be three summertime Congregational Potluck Brunches.

The dates are: June 25, July 16, August 27

Please mark your calendars and make plans to join your church friends for food and fellowship.

Upcoming Parades Information

Our church participates in two community parades during the summertime. The Hudson Booster Days Parade will be Saturday, July 1st and the North Hudson Pepper Fest Parade will be Saturday, August 19th.

Please bring bottled water, as you're able, that will be handed out during the parade. And, mark your calendars and make plans to join in the fun!

Planning Ahead For Vacation Bible School

This summer, August 14th–16th, Pastor Kogler and Mark Carlson will be leading our VBS titled "Gone Fishing". Last year we had a really great VBS – thanks to all who attended and/or helped!

Teachers, teacher helpers, craft people, treat providers, and prayer partners are needed. So, please plan with us as we share the love with our community!

You may contact Mark & Pastor Kogler if we can count on your help!

As we look ahead, our hope is to go further with our Outreach by passing out water & VBS invitation/Preschool information while walking in the Hudson Booster Parade.

Camp Croix Youth Bible Camp 2017

Session 1: July 9-15

Session 2: July 16-22

Session 3: July 23-29

Other News

Deadline for sending information for the July 2017 newsletter or calendar is: Wednesday, June, 21st.

Please find the Usher sign-up sheets on the table below the mail slots and fill-in your name when available. If you have any questions about ushering, please speak with Don Benisch. Thank you!

If you have any extra plants or food from your garden, please bring to church and place on the banquet table in the Fellowship Room.

If you would like to receive church communications from Emmanuel please update your contact information. Send information to: emmanuelhudsonwi@gmail.com.

If you don't use e-mail as a form of communication, please let me know your updated contact information by writing a note and leaving it the 'office' mail slot. Thank you kindly, Trudi.

Please continue to bring your aluminum cans and place them in the trailer. And, when emptying the cans into the trailer, please make sure that whatever container you used to transport the cans isn't placed in the trailer as well. Thank you.

Flower Chart – Please locate the Flower Chart on the bulletin board and write your name in on the Sunday that you are able to provide flowers. You are welcome to bring your own or perhaps contact Florology @ 715.222.3899 for an altar arrangement, potted plant, or fresh arrangement at special pricing from \$20-\$30.

Remember to wear a hat, put on sun-screen, and drink a cup of water every 30-minutes when you're outside this summer

WELS News

Multi-Language Publications Reaching Malawi and Beyond

Imagine if you could speak 47 different languages. Suppose you are able to...

Greet someone in Nuer.

Ask for directions in Burmese.

Order food in Kurdish.

Say a prayer in Urdu.

Read a book in Tagalog.

Explain a concept in Mizo.

Tell an idiom in Russian.

Sound improbable? Even impossible to speak so many languages? Rev. Nate Seiltz¹ can!

Well, to be more accurate, Multi-Language Publications can. Rev. Seiltz, former WELS missionary to Dominican Republic and Haiti—and a Spanish speaker himself – is currently the Director of the Multi-Language Publications (MLP). He travels the world making sure that the Word is getting out and the Word is getting in.

In homes.

In schools.

In congregations.

In hearts.

Try to wrap your head around these numbers: in its 20+ year history, MLP to date has printed over 2.9 million items² in 47 languages! I guess the Word has gotten around and is getting around. But now consider Rev. Seiltz's vision and MLPs goal:

"To reach 100 million people with the gospel in the next ten years with the additional goal of having at least 2 million people using discipleship training media produced by MLP."

"это не мелочь" In Russian, "It's no small thing!" You might say, "That's no small potatoes!"

100 million people hearing the gospel never is. Reaching even just *one* is not insignificant. Heaven rejoices when even one coin is found.³

If you want to meet someone passionate about reaching out to lost souls, sit down with Rev. Seiltz. He realizes the MLP potential and knows that it's not merely about ordering food or asking for directions in many languages.

He shared this story:

"I met a young Indian man in an airport in India. He was Christian pastor...I asked him if he had any converts from Hinduism and he said 'yes.' I asked, 'What are some good ways to reach them?'" He replied: 'Really the only thing that works is the gospel.'"

Good answer. No great answer.

So just think, in that respect, then, it is about food: Jesus, the Bread of Life⁴ and the Living Water!⁵ And it is about directions: the one way to heaven! Jesus is it! John emphasizes, "no one comes to the Father except through him."⁶

According to the Scriptures, not only is there only one road, it's also a bit narrow.⁷

But there's room for all.

Because of MLP, some people who speak and read Nuer or Burmese or Kurdish or any of the other 44 languages can now discover the amazing, bewildering, perplexing wonders of God in Christ Jesus.

By the way, I'm just borrowing those words, "amazing, bewildering and perplexing," from Acts 2. There you will find the story of the original MLP, the Multi-Language Pentecost. That's the day when people of different nations suddenly heard Galilean locals speak their own native tongue. It raised eyebrows as well as accusations. It probably would have been headlines in the Daily News. More than surprising and greater than astonishing, it was...

Amazing!

Bewildering!

Perplexing!

Not just the men, but the message. Especially the message. Sin and Savior. Law and Gospel. Hell and heaven. Works and Grace. Repentance and forgiveness. Ah, yes, forgiveness.

Really? I, too, am forgiven?

The message of today's 21st century MLP is the same message as the first-century MLP:

Yes, you are forgiven in Jesus Christ! Believe it!

No wonder Nate writes in MLPs 2016-2017 Catalogue: “The majority of MLP products are evangelism and Bible Study materials. These can be used by anyone who sees a need for ministering to others in Christ.”

After all, who doesn’t need that kind of message? We, on the Malawi field, were blessed to have Rev. Seiltz visit us this month of March 2017.⁸ He took time to travel to “The Warm (and these days, rainy) Heart of Africa” to share information, goals and visions of MLP. He met with the Lutheran Mission missionaries and with some of the national pastors in the Lutheran Church of Central Africa, Malawi Synod (LCCA-MS). His visit revealed not only his work but his joy. His joy?

“Being able to put gospel materials in different languages so many people can learn of their Savior and grow in their faith. Working with national churches and missionaries, brothers and sisters in the faith as they minister in their Savior’s Kingdom.”

Dear Mission Partner, do you have a friend who speaks Spanish? Got a Ukrainian neighbor? Is there a member in your church whose mother tongue is Chinese? Anyone you know come from Korea or Japan? Do you speak his/her language?

Even if you can’t, MLP can. If it can’t, it’ll do what it takes to speak that language, too. After all, it wants to help you in...

Declaring the Wonders of God.⁹

By Missionary John Holtz, Malawi, Africa
05/08/2017 in Missions Blog, WELS Blogs
wels.net

¹Seiltz is married to Natalie and they have 3 children Brett, Carlos, Angela. They live in Jackson, Wis., and are members of Morning Star Lutheran Church. His MLP office is at the Synod Headquarters, (Center for Mission and Ministry) in Waukesha, Wis. Rev. Seiltz regularly travels internationally and domestically for MLP promotion.

²Items such as Sunday School materials, The Promise, Bible Stories in Pictures, Evangelism movies, What the Bible and Lutherans Teach, Book of Prayers, etc.

³Luke 15:3-10

⁴John 6:25-59

⁵John 4

⁶John 14:6

⁷Matthew 7:14

⁸On this same trip to Malawi, Rev. Seiltz also visited Cameroon and Zambia for the same purpose of promoting MLP and its materials.

⁹Acts 2:11

WELS Missionaries' Kids Meet for Retreat

Twenty-three missionary kids (MK)—ranging in age from 16 to 50—along with spouses and children attended a WELS MK Retreat in April. Organized by missionary kids, this retreat offered support and encouragement for adults who grew up in a WELS mission field.

“When you come back from a mission field, your sense of identity can be lost,” says Anna Sherod, a co-organizer of the retreat who spent much of her childhood in Japan. “People who grew up highly mobile and with highly intercultural childhoods have a unique set of challenges for understanding their place in the world.”

Sherod says the retreat is a way to help people process their pasts as they look forward to their future. “We want to provide a way for people to connect and to feel part of a community that understands that unique experience and also unleash people to use their unique experiences and gifts within God’s kingdom now,” she says. Sena Yerges, a licensed professional counselor at WLCFS–Christian Family Solutions who specializes in missionary family support, agrees. “We’re all different, and we know about some common struggles with third-culture kids,” says Yerges, who grew up in various mission fields. “To be able to get together and acknowledge those differences but also talk about . . . how God has used our backgrounds to his

glory is really exciting," she says. "It's great to see what comes from this unique upbringing."

Yerges says retreats like these also offer a sense of belonging. "When MKs get together no matter if they never met before, it feels like an extended family reunion. Everybody just gets everybody else," she says. "It feels very comforting and relaxing and reassuring. Instead of being the one who is different, you have a sense of belonging that you maybe haven't had very often in your life."

At the retreat, attendees discussed their unique challenges and blessings, networked, and worshiped together. They also worked on a collaborative art piece, in which they created individualized pie charts on slices of tree limbs showing all the places where they lived. These pieces will be arranged into an art piece that may be displayed at the Center for Mission and Ministry in Waukesha, Wis.

WELS World Missions helped fund this retreat. "Our World Mission team understands that overseas work is a whole family experience," says Rev. Larry Schlomer, administrator of World Missions and also a missionary kid himself. "The effects of the transition to a country and back to a passport country can leave kids reeling in many ways. These retreats give us the chance to offer needed support for these third-culture kids who as WELS members have much to offer the mission of the church."

If you grew up on a WELS mission field, join the online community at facebook.com/WELSMKs. Learn more about WELS mission work at wels.net/missions.

05/16/2017 in Together
wels.net

A Biblical Worldview

by **John Beck**

The following article written by Dr. Danny R. Faulkner appears in *Answers In Genesis*, May 20, 2016.

PART TWO: The Origin of Life: What Are the Possibilities?

The origin of life has been debated for a long time. Basically, there are four possible explanations for the existence of life on earth:

1. Life on earth arose spontaneously.
2. Life on earth has always existed.
3. Life on earth came about through a supernatural act of creation by an intelligent Being.
4. Life was seeded from space.

Attempts to Answer the Question

Perhaps the best solution to this dilemma is to conclude that life does not exist. Some may insist that is a silly response. It is, but it is no sillier than some other suggested responses. For instance, some people may say, "Well, we're here, so option one must have happened." As reasonable as that may seem to the person saying it, it hardly proves that life arose spontaneously. One could just as easily say, "Well, we're here, so option three must have happened. A person who believes in the eternal-ity of the universe could just as easily assert that option two must be true, because we are here. This approach commits the informal fallacy of begging the question (i.e., assuming what you are trying to prove while making an argument.)

A better approach might be to assert that the only reason why we have not observed abiogenesis is that it so rarely happens. That is a logical possibility, but it has no empirical evidence to support it. Belief in abiogenesis is the reason why so much attention is given to the search for evidence for life elsewhere in the universe. This search takes many forms, such as programs leading to the discovery of extrasolar planets, planets orbiting other stars. So far, we have found about 2,000 other planets, but none are clearly earth-like, that is, suitable for life. Another manifestation for the search for life elsewhere is the seemingly never-ending missions to Mars. Each mission to Mars reveals no evidence for life on Mars (and frequently shows just the opposite to be the case), which is followed by the next mission that appears to be based upon the premise that we just haven't looked in the right parts of Mars yet. Then there

is SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. SETI operates by listening for radio broadcasts from planets orbiting other stars. The first SETI program was in 1960. Today SETI operates almost continuously, and it has generated a tremendous amount of data. What has been the result of all of this data? We have found no evidence of any alien transmissions.

There are other avenues that the search for life elsewhere has pursued. Suffice it to say that none have produced any encouraging evidence for life elsewhere. Therefore, as far as science has been able to demonstrate thus far, life does not exist anywhere else. One may object that all the data are not in. That is true, but when are all the data ever in for any question in science? By this reasoning, we can never reach a conclusion in science, because some future data might contradict the conclusion that the current data leads to. In science, we work the data that we have in hand. Sometimes further data overturns an earlier conclusion. That is the nature of science—it changes. However, that never can be the justification for reaching the opposite conclusion suggested by the data that we now have. Only bias in favor of abiogenesis causes abiogenesis to persist as a real possibility in the minds of many scientists.

Part three of this article will appear in next month's newsletter.