

# GOOD TIDINGS OF PEACE

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## April 2024

On Easter morning, some of the women and a couple of the disciples saw what they could not explain. The tomb was empty, the linen wrappings were there and in addition, some saw Jesus himself alive and angels sent to them by God. Not only are these events unexplainable but they became a main target of Satan's smear campaign.

Matthew 28:11-15 "As they were on their way, there were some members of the guard who went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 After the chief priests had assembled with the elders and had reached a decision, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers 13 and said, "You are to say, 'His disciples came at night and stole him away while we were sleeping.' 14 If the governor hears about it, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 After the soldiers took the money, they did as they were instructed. And this story has been repeated among the Jews until this day."

Imagine yourself hearing these two accounts as a philosophical skeptic. In a "he said - she said" situation, who do you believe?

This was the situation for many living at the time Matthew. We know what it's like to get two different accounts of an event. First, there's a couple dozen opinion pieces, then throw in a meme or two and, of course, a host of "Influencers" throwing their weight around. So, we know why God inspired Matthew to write these words of revelation.

Philosophical skeptics consider Christian Faith to be a "blind leap into the dark." God does not leave us blindly leaping into the dark. He uses Matthew and others to reveal his mysteries and bring to light those things we are not mentally capable of understanding but we can trust in.

God simply tells of miracles taking place... arising from being dead, a glorified body, angels... and allows eye witnesses tell of their sights and sounds and senses. The Tomb, the grave clothes, the angel's message, embracing the feet of the Lord himself and hearing his calm voice are all recorded by people the readers of this Gospel could check out themselves. For if they did they would also hear of the events that covered the next 40 days until Christ ascended in heaven.

On the other hand, they have the report of the Roman soldiers who stood guard at the tomb. The report was that while they were on guard, the disciples came and stole away Christ's body. Now, everyone at that time knew that Roman soldiers were armed and stood guard at the risk of their lives. They would either carry out their orders to the point of death or they would be executed by their superiors afterward if they let their prisoner escape. No unarmed Jews were going to steal away a body after moving a large grave stone! And Matthew includes the bribe given by the chief priests which included protection of their lives before the governor.

Matthew's original readers could put 2 and 2 together to see the report of the soldiers is phoney and the actions of the Chief Priest is in total keeping with his immoral, political agenda.

Who do you believe? Why do you believe? These most important questions are at the heart of God's relationship with us. He gives us every solid reason to believe him while the devil in this world's activities only makes "sinful sense". We know by experience what sinful minds will do to cover up their crimes and evil intentions.

God turned off the sun during the crucifixion of his Son. God tore the temple curtain in two. God shook the earth. God opened the graves of his faithful and had them appear in Jerusalem to give even greater witness to God's Truthfulness. God sent the angels to the tomb. God rolled the stone away. Jesus met with more than 500 people after his resurrection and Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost as he promised.

**We believe God because God is Faithful, God is True.**

**We put our Faith in God Almighty based on His 100% Faithfulness.**

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# ~Announcements~

## **PAINTING!**

We plan to paint the fellowship hall the week of April 6th -13th. Volunteers are needed to move some of the furniture, tape or trim edges, and then paint.

There is still plenty of time to sign up and volunteer!

Please contact Matt McKay if you would be willing to help (sign-up sheet is located on the counter by the church office).

# **Save the Date - LWMS Spring Rally**

The NW Wisconsin LWMS Spring Rally will be held Saturday, April 27th at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Spring Valley.

Breakfast will be offered at 8:30 am.

The program will run from 9:30am – 12:15pm and will include the installation of officers.

Our speaker will be Rev. Robert Newmann, WELS Liaison to the Ukrainian Lutheran Church.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Lois Mueller. Ride sharing will be available!



## **SOME ADDITIONAL 'SAVE THE DATES'**

### **(FROM LLP):**

04.27.2024 - LWMS Spring Rally - reach out to join us for a morning or mission updates/education and fun!

04.28.2024 - Spring LLP meeting to include 1) Assess LLP officer terms, and 2) vote for officers for the LWMS International Board.

05.11.2024 - LLP to clean closet and file cabinets in prep for 40th - all help appreciated



# CAMM

Happy March!

Lent; a season of reflection and a time to pause. In a world where time is money and we are defined by tasks and accomplishments, the season of Lent reminds us where our focus should be. *“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2* There are so many things in this world that draw our attention away from Jesus and what he did for us on the cross. My encouragement for you this Lent season is to pray for the strength and patience to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Every time you finish a task; thank God. Every time your boss congratulates you on work well done; thank God. Remember that we can do nothing without his love and the gifts we are all given. Blessings to you this Lent season.

This month's CAMM newsletter is written by Beth Evans, Nurse Advisor who recently participated in a short Medical Camp in Sagana, Kenya. This camp was made possible through the collaborative efforts of CAMM, the One Africa Team (OAT), Lutheran Congregations in Missions for Christ, along with the Kenyan government.

Thank you for your continued prayers on behalf of CAMM.

God's Blessing,

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**"IF ANYONE SERVES, HE SHOULD DO IT WITH THE STRENGTH GOD PROVIDES,  
SO THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE PRAISED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST."**

**I PETER 4:11**

Almost 3 years ago, Pastor Mark Anariko Onunda from Lutheran Congregations in Missions for Christ -Kenya approached OAT (the One Africa Team) and CAMM with a proposal to hold a week-long Medical Camp at a Lutheran congregation near the town of Sagana, Kenya. These medical camps are common in Kenya, and the government approves of them to reach people in rural areas with free screenings and medical care. The CAMM committee prayerfully considered and agreed to this, knowing that nothing should be done that would detract from the work we are doing at the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi or the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Center in Zambia. OAT was in favor, because Pastor Onunda's main goal was to bring patients to the church by providing evangelists to lead devotions and share the gospel of Christ with people coming to the camp. With a generous grant from Christian Aid and Relief, the cost was covered. After almost a year of preparations by our Field Director - Gary Evans, Pastor Mwangi, John Michoro and other leaders of



the congregation at Karima Lutheran church, together with the Kirinyaga County Health Department, the four day camp became a reality from February 26-29th. Six volunteers from the CAMM committee arrived 4 days early to complete the work of sorting and organizing supplies and medications in the storage room and setting up the camp in a large field near the church, joining Gary and Pastor John Roebke. They met with key government staff to confirm what supplies were still needed and which services would be provided. Tents and toilets had already been installed. Volunteers from the congregation

were available to help set up chairs, tables, hand washing stations and rope lines. Everyone worshiped together under one of the tents on Sunday prior to the start of camp. There was a sense of unity of faith and joy in the mission ahead.

The government staff included Clinical Officers, nurses, nutritionists, laboratory technicians, a pharmacist, pharmacy techs, and record keepers. There was a truck in which women could be screened and even treated for cervical cancer. American volunteers assisted wherever they could, whether taking blood pressures, checking blood sugars, doing triage, weighing patients, finding equipment, running to the storeroom to bring medications to the pharmacy, placing garbage and sharps containers, and monitored the overall workflow. The church volunteers registered and numbered patients, directed them where to go, answered questions, emptied garbage, cleaned, translated the Kikuyu language, spent time talking with patients, led Bible studies, and hard-working women made traditional African food lunches for 70 people each day!





All patients were screened for hypertension and diabetes, and received nutrition advice, health education and medications as needed. 1400 patients were seen over the four days. One 12-year-old girl with a very painful ulcerated rash on her ankles for two years was finally treated with the correct antifungal and antibiotic medication, and follow-up was arranged. A woman who had dangerously high blood sugar but had not been taking medication for diabetes was treated with IV fluids and insulin. She could go home with oral medication and was taught how to change her diet to help keep her glucose levels down and follow-up at a local clinic. “Asante sana” (thank you very much) was heard often. We were told the community had benefited greatly from the camp, and the church leaders knew that there would be many new visitors to church the next Sunday.

Although the volunteers were tired, dirty and sensory overloaded at the end of each day, it was gratifying to know that it was mainly the Kenyan peoples’ initiative and efforts which made the camp happen. We were watching God’s plan unfold for people to hear about their Savior as well as having their health needs met. Will there be more Lutheran Medical Camps in Kenya? God-willing, yes. Meanwhile, our clinics in Zambia and Malawi continue to thrive.

Thanks be to God!

Your sister in Christ,

Beth Evans, CAMM Nurse Advisor

**Visit our new  
website !  
CAMM.US**



<https://www.facebook.com/camm.wels>

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Bible Study 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am	8 <b>Outreach Committee</b> 4:30 pm  <b>Church Council</b> 6:00 pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 Bible Study 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Bible Study 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am <b>Voters Meeting 10:45 am</b>	22	23	24	25	26	27 <b>LWMS Circuit Rally, St Matthew, Spring Valley</b>
28 Bible Study 8:30 am Worship Service 9:30 am Fellowship 10:30 am <b>LLP Spring Meeting 10:45</b>	29	30				
<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>April 21<sup>st</sup>: Voters Meeting 10:45 am</b>		<b>April 27<sup>th</sup>: LWMS Circuit Rally, St Matthew, Spring Valley</b>		<b>April 28<sup>th</sup>: LLP Spring 10:45 am</b>	