



St. John's Lutheran Church, New Ulm, MN
July, 2022 *Fortress*

We're Just Camping

This Father's Day, Becky and the boys gave me just what I wanted: A new cooler for our camping and road trips. This one plugs into an electrical outlet on our camper or into a cigarette lighter adapter in the van and works like a refrigerator, keeping our food and drinks cold without the hassle of buying and replacing the ice.

I will admit, the camping I do now is a lot different than the camping I did as a kid. As a kid, we slept in a small tent that seemed to leak all the time. And we slept right on the ground. As I grew older, we upgraded to air mattresses which felt like luxury. Now I camp in a popup on a real, foam mattress. Now I camp with electricity to charge our laptops and cell phones and to cook our food on an electric stove. Now I camp with a refrigerator-cooler. I will admit that, to me, it feels like I'm glamping, not camping. And I love it.

But... As much as I enjoy spending time in the popup with my family, I also enjoy coming home to our air conditioned house. And as nice as our Guenther campsite has become, I'm always glad to sleep in my own bed again when I return. As fun as camping (or glamping) with the family is, I know it's just temporary. I'm not going to stay there forever. Of course, the same is true of my house. I won't stay here for long either. And, of course, the same is true of this earth. I won't stay here for long either.

The author to the Hebrews pointed that out when he highlighted the faith of the patriarch, Abraham: *"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."* (Hebrews 11:8-10)

In all the times that I've been camping, I've never seen a fellow camper pave a path from his tent or RV to the bathrooms with concrete. I've never seen a camper build a shed for her firewood. I've never seen a camper plant a garden on his site. How foolish that would be for a camper to do such projects when she knows that she'll be leaving that site in a day or two.

How foolish we are when we treat this life as the only thing that matters, forgetting that we will be leaving this site in a decade or a few. But isn't that what we do so often? In our sinful self-absorption, we think that our comfort, our ease, our convenience on this short camping trip of life is all that matters. And we sin against our holy and loving God who wants us to enjoy an eternity of peace and joy in his **"city with foundations."**

Thank God that Jesus was willing to leave such a wonderful, beautiful city where he received the praise of angels day after day to come and be our Savior. Thank God that, **"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."** (Literally, he "tabernacled," or "tented" among us.) (John 1:14) Thank God that Jesus left his comfortable home in heaven to camp among us humans for a while so that he could live a perfect life in our place and die an innocent death on the cross! Thank God that he came to take away our sin and make us fit for the mansions of heaven that he's preparing for us!

Now, as we continue to "camp" here on earth, may we always remember that that's all we're doing: We're just camping. This isn't our home. This isn't our permanent settlement or dwelling. We're here just for a short time. And when we leave this "campsite," we will go to our permanent dwellings: **"to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."** May God help us to live our lives with that in mind: That it's not about how nice we can make our "campsites." It's not about how nice the popup and the mattress and the refrigerator-cooler are. It's about our eternal home and about how many we can bring with us on our journey there.

It's always been a favorite hymn of mine, that reminds me of these truths:

I'm but a stranger here, heav'n is my home; earth is a desert drear, heav'n is my home; danger and sorrow stand round me on ev'ry hand; heav'n is my fatherland, heav'n is my home.

What though the tempest rage, heav'n is my home; short is my pilgrimage, heav'n is my home; and time's wild, wintry blast soon shall be overpast; I shall reach home at last, heav'n is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, heav'n is my home; whate'er my earthly lot, heav'n is my home; and I shall surely stand there at my Lord's right hand; heav'n is my fatherland, heav'n is my home. (CW 853:1-3)

May God continue to grant us the confidence that heaven is our home and to bless our earthly pilgrimage here as we remember that we're just camping.

In Christ,
Pastor Rob Guenther

July Sermon Texts

July 3	Luke 10:1-12, 16-20	The Harvest Field is a Battle Field
July 10	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	The Fight for Freedom
July 17	Luke 10:38-42	There is a Better Choice
July 24	Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43	Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter
July 31	Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12-14; 2:18-26	What is the Meaning of Life?

Bible Classes meet in the Church Basement
The class can also be found online at bit.ly/SJBibleClass

Sundays at 11 am	Book of Mark	Pastor Guenther
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Council Digest

The St. John's Church Council met on June 21. A summary of reports and actions not reported elsewhere in the Fortress follows:

Ministrations

Transfers Out

Annalisha Schmidt to St. Paul's, New Ulm, MN

Isaiah Smith to St. Paul's, North Mankato, MN

Releases

Sarah Schroeder

Jason Schroeder

Deacon Brad Price reported 872 baptized and 721 communicant members at this time, a 2-3% drop from the same time last year. Although it is too early to make long-range predictions, it does highlight the need to encourage and be encouraged to gather around the Word of God and the fellowship of believers.

Greg Diersen reported for the Board of Youth and Education as the new St. John's Representative to the St. Paul's Lutheran School Board for Child Discipleship (BOCD). Due to a larger 1-2 grade enrollment, a call has been extended to Mrs. Melissa Nehls for that position for the 2022-23 school year. So that there is minimal budget impact, one-time Thrivent dollars and EANS-reallocation to funds are being used to fund this new called position for this year, while the BOCD looks at future enrollment and funding. Please join in praying for Melissa as she deliberates this call! What wonderful opportunities from Jesus!

Evangelism Board chair Jesse Zahrt reminded council members of some summer events being planned:

July 17: Bavarian Blast parade - walking with St. Paul's church

July 23: Sleepy Eye Swim Park is reserved from 9:45-11:45 am for our church activity.

July 24: Fellowship Sunday

Work continues on the prospect database and mailing list along with a review of the church website.

Jason Mohror, reporting for the Elders, recommends for the congregation's consideration the release of Christine Wieland at the July voter's meeting. Laura Rademaker has moved to the Netherlands. Contacts have been attempted. No response has been received. She is recommended for release by the Elders to the Voters. A couple of other personal requests for releases were presented. It was also agreed that the elder's chairman will take on the role of St. John's employee reviews.

Dan Borgwardt and the Stewardship Board continue to work on the specific descriptors of their broad role in overseeing the stewardship of the Truth, time, talents, and treasures Jesus has entrusted to St. John's. A few wish list items will be completed in the coming weeks including the entrance inscription above the south entrance. The offerings collection will include another freewill offering box built and given by Earl Heidtke. Online giving will be done through NetGiver electronic contribution platform once the St. John's enrollment is finalized.

Reporting for the Trustees, chair Scott Deters noted a favorable list of summer upkeep that has or is being completed around our church. Plans continue to move forward on the kitchen renovations and updating.

The following schedule was set for future meetings:

Next regular council meeting - Tuesday, July 19, 7 pm

Next voters' meeting - Tuesday, July 26, 7 pm

Submitted by Jon Schaefer,
Congregational president

Summer Devotions in the Park

The Friday morning women's Bible study group invites all parents and their children to join them during the summer months for Christian fellowship in the park.

We meet at 9 am at the listed park for free play and a picnic lunch (optional). Feel free to bring a friend!

If you have any questions, please contact Erika Grundmeier at (989) 529-8729.

July 1 North Market Park: 1414 N. German St.

July 8 Nehl's Park: 1100 Summit Ave.

July 15 South Park: 1800 S. State St.

July 22 German Park: 200 N. German St.

July 29 Hermann Heights Park: 14 Monument St.

Staff Minister

July 1st I started my third year as Staff Minister after accepting your Call that was extended for another year. I thank God for allowing me this opportunity to serve you for another year. If there is something that you think needs attention, please contact me so I can either provide help myself or direct you to someone else.

Online Church Directory

Now that our directory is about six months old, it's time to start thinking about getting ready for the **2023 Edition** which will be printing in January. Summer is a good time to think about updating your pictures as many have a chance to get together with family or are involved in activities that may be great for a new picture. If you haven't tried the online **Instant Church Directory App**, try it on your phone or computer. It is secure and only available to our members. Pictures or other information can be updated easily. Download the App for your Android or iPhone by visiting instantchurchdirectory.com. You can also visit the Apple Store or Google Play to download the FREE App. Just type in **Instant Church Directory**. I have found it to be very easy to access. Identify St. John's, New Ulm, Minnesota as your church and sign in with your name and email address. You will get an email to verify it is you. Once you are verified and signed in the first time on your phone it only takes a second to open and use to find the members of St. John's. You can also email your photo to sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com and I will update it for you. If you have changed address, phone numbers, or have children now in college or military, please fill out and update information on sheets available in the new narthex. Save time and include names and only information that is new.

Visiting the Homebound

I continue to have the privilege of joining the pastors in visits to members who are homebound—sharing the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. If you are not on our list to be visited but would like to be included, please call the church office or me at 507-217-7604 to get on the list.

Member Care

We were able to serve a couple of our members through this program this past month. If you are one of our older members and need help with something you can't do yourself anymore, please fill out a Member Care Card. It may be as simple as changing light bulbs or batteries in smoke detectors, or it may be something a little more intense. I have placed **Member Care Cards** in the new narthex. Fill one out with details about the work that is needed and place card in my church mailbox (J/C Dretske). I will try to connect you with someone who is willing to help.

St. John's Church APP

Go to your App Store on your phone and type in **St Johns New Ulm**. You can watch our streamed services live or recorded, listen to an archive of digital audio files of songs that have been sung in church, see a calendar of upcoming events, or even use an online contribution feature.

Streamed/Recorded Services

If you are watching on YouTube, please **hit SUBSCRIBE**. You will not need to pay a monthly fee. It only means that our St. John's New Ulm "Channel" will show up under your Subscribed Channels in the YouTube App in order to access it easily. If you choose to accept notifications, you will receive a notification on your computer or mobile phone whenever St. John's New Ulm uploads or streams a new video. Thanks for watching our services and subscribing to the St. John's New Ulm YouTube channel.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Dretske
Staff Minister, St. John's Lutheran Church
507-217-7604 (cell)
sm.dretske@stjohnsnewulm.com

Our Synod at Work

WELS Annual Report: Called to Support

This month we will conclude pointing out the highlights of the 2022 WELS Annual Report to Members by looking at the section entitled Called to Support. The section has six major areas of support.

Northwestern Publishing House

Northwestern Publishing House provides Christ-centered, biblically sound resources and publishes *Forward in Christ* and *Mediations: Daily Devotional* as well as elementary and Sunday school curricula, Bible studies, worship materials, music, and faith-strengthening books. In addition, it released the new Christian Worship hymnal.

WELS Benefit Plans

The WELS Benefit Plans Office serves WELS and Evangelical Lutheran Synod workers and organization through administration of the WELS Voluntary Employees' Beneficiary Association Health Plan, the WELS Pension Plan, and the WELS Shepherd Plan. Delegates to the 2021 synod convention voted to change WELS' Pension Plan to a defined contribution plan for future worker retirement benefits. Coverage and benefits provided through WELS Benefit Plans are uniform throughout all 50 states.

WELS Church Extension Fund

The WELS Church Extension Fund provides financing through loans and grants to mission congregations so they can acquire land and ministry facilities to be used for gospel outreach in coordination with WELS Home Missions. It also provides loans to self-supporting WELS congregations and schools for land and facility projects. The money to carry out WELS Church Extension Fund's mission comes from investments and gifts from members, congregations, and affiliated organizations.

WELS Foundation

The WELS Foundation currently administers more than 1,200 donor-directed planned gifts that support gospel ministry throughout the synod. The impact of the gifts was felt through the distributions to ministry that WELS Foundation made in fiscal year 2021: \$6.7 million to WELS national ministries, \$5.2 million to WELS congregations, and \$1.8 million to WELS-affiliated ministries. Last year it also distributed \$1 million to ministry through several synod endowments.

WELS Investment Funds

By pooling investment resources through WELS Investment Funds, congregations can take advantage of lower cost institutionally priced investment alternatives that would not otherwise be available. For the second year in a row, the WELS Endowment Fund's net investment return placed in the 90th percentile in a comprehensive annual study of private and community foundations.

Financial Services

Financial Services provides accounting and financial services that support and serve WELS ministries. Synod convention delegates passed the Synodical Council's proposed ministry financial plan in 2021. Congregations Mission Offerings are critical to WELS' financial position as these offerings fund nearly three-quarters of WELS' operating budget.

Gerald Woodley

St. John's Cancer Journey Group

St. John's Cancer Journey Group met on June 22. The gathering began with a light supper. Pastor Bovee then led a devotion which provided encouragements based on God's providence and grace as shown in the Biblical account of Hezekiah's illness. Vicky Beltz, manager of the Oncology Department at the New Ulm Medical Center, presented information about the services and programs related to cancer that the Allina Health Cancer Institute – New Ulm offers.

The cancer group hopes to continue to meet regularly on a quarterly basis. Watch for bulletin announcements about the next meeting in fall. If you or someone dear to you is on a cancer journey (whether newly diagnosed, undergoing treatment, post-treatment, or in remission) please consider coming. And, our gatherings are not just for the person on a cancer journey. Spouses, close family members, or a caring friend are also welcomed to come.

If you would like more information, speak with one of our pastors or with Wayne Wagner.

Church Library

How is your summer going? Summer always seems to be too short, mainly because we try to cram too many things into the three months. I am getting a lot of books read. Are you?

New books for the church library are four fiction and three non-fiction. The non-fiction first. Angela Hunt wrote a novelization of the last days of St. Paul called "Paul, Apostle of Christ" that was made into a major motion picture.

Mark Paustian, professor at Martin Luther College, wrote a devotion book that correlates to our new hymnal, called "Our Worth to Him."

Katie Maxwell wrote "Bedside Manners," a practical guide to visiting the ill. Even though it was first written over 30 years ago, I am sure the guidance still holds.

The nonfiction books are similar to the ones introduced the last two months, which were by Beverly Lewis and Beth Wiseman. Three of these new books, novels by Wanda Brunstetter, take us again to Amish country. Book one of this series is not available. Book 2 is "Looking for a Miracle." Book 3 is "Plain and Fancy." Book 4 is "The Hope Chest." The author recently expanded the stories. A fourth Amish book for this month is written by Serena Miller, "Hidden Mercies," about meeting someone 27 years later, and falling in love again.

I enjoyed reading all 7 of these books. Maybe you will also.

LeiLani Rahn,
Church librarian

Art Camp / VBS

Planning Meeting: Any students 7th grade and older who would like to help are welcome to do so. There will be a planning meeting on Thursday, July 7 at 7 pm to flesh out the details.

We will need people to assist with crafts, food, and a host of other things. If you have particular skills in art, we also welcome your help with teaching.

Please consider joining the team.

Art Camp/Vacation Bible School (VBS) is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9 - Thursday, August 11, from 9 - 11:30 am.

There will be a Jr. Art Camp for grades Pre-K - 2nd Grades for \$5 per student; and an advanced Art Camp for students 3rd - 8th. The cost is \$25 per student.

All students will receive an Art Camp t-shirt, a paint set (watercolors for younger students, and acrylic set for older students), and brushes. Lessons will be offered in acrylic painting, watercolor, drawing, and pastels.

Registration information will be coming out shortly.

St. Paul's School

Fields Are Ripe in our Schools

For generations, St. Paul's Lutheran School has benefited from the training provided to our teachers at Martin Luther College. Many other schools around the synod have also benefited. This year, after the graduates at Martin Luther College were placed at schools around our synod, there may be up to 140 vacancies in teaching positions. (There are many pastor vacancies, as well.) St. Paul's is blessed. We have no vacancies for the coming school year.

The number of students in our synod schools grew by 4,000 children last year. St. Paul's alone grew by 30 students. In order to staff our schools, we need adults and children to consider if he/she has the gifts it takes to be a teacher. The fields are ripe and the time to harvest is now. If you know of someone who has these gifts, we ask that you encourage them. There are steps that second career adults can take to become a teacher. There is a path for students from St. Paul's to become a teacher.

Our college of ministry, Martin Luther College, is right here in our backyard. They encourage you to contact them with your questions and interest. They will provide you with direction and encouragement as well.

Please, prayerfully consider your gifts. Are you a natural when working with children? Do you have patience? Do you desire to affect young people? Can you see yourself handling a classroom?

Thank you to our teachers and the teachers around our synod! The fields are ripe for your work.

Pete Markgraf, Principal

Bulletin Gleanings from St. John's Archives: 1960

January On New Year's Day the following newly-elected officers were installed during the service: Moderator: Eric Seifert; Elder: Henry Wacker; Trustee: Norm Wieland; Recording Secretary: Victor Voecks; Treasurer: Henry Baumann; and Deacon: Elmer Kitzrow. Later in January, the Church Council elected Howard Birkholz as its chairman and Victor Voecks as secretary.

February At the Annual Meeting, St. John's adopted a budget of \$26,000 for the year 1960. That would set the average weekly offering at \$500. January offerings fell \$1,000 short. This information was given to help members more effectively support our Gospel ministry here and abroad.

May Eleven young people were confirmed on May 8th: Patricia Arndt, Marvell Beilke, Margaret Brown, Steven Fenske, John Gronholz, Mona Hoenecke, Carol Johnson, Vivian Machau, Carl Rolloff, Dale Stelter and Jane Vogel.

June Sixty students attended Vacation Bible School and some sang in the 9 am service on June 19th. The various projects of the children were on display in the kitchen of the basement church. After church the congregation hosted a church picnic in DMLC Park for all members and VBS parents. A special door offering was taken to add to the \$4,000 already collected by the WELS Committee on Relief to help those who were suffering from the tidal waves that hit Hong Kong.

July Every member-family of St. John's had the WELS periodical The Northwestern Lutheran delivered to their home twice a month. Additionally, each family received a copy of Meditations at church. A special envelope was distributed each year so that the \$2.50 per family annual subscription rate for both of these publications would be met.

August Pastor Nitz was away for one weekend so that he could preach for the 100th anniversary of one of his former parishes: Dr. Martin Luther Church, Buffalo City, WI.

September The Y.P.S. (Young Persons' Society) elected the following: John Trapp, President; Louis Sievert, Vice President; Lois Sievert (now: Bode), Secretary; Paula Willheit, Treasurer and Judy Brei, Program Chairman. The Y.P.S. decided to purchase a new lamp for the organ. A favorite activity was roller skating.

Pastor Nitz announced in the bulletin that the Sundays following September 29 (The minor festival of St. Michael and All Angels or Michaelmas) would be designated Michaelmas I, II and III, etc. until the season of Advent. Reformation Sunday (October 31st) would be the exception.

November The house and property directly to the north of the church "once again" was being offered to the congregation for sale. At that time Pastor Nitz was living in the 517 N. Washington Street parsonage. The offer was declined at a special voters' meeting because "It was felt that too much would have to be spent to make the house suitable for a parsonage."

Editor's Note: The office addition of 2005 required that we purchase that house. The owner "sold" it to us for the cost of a house he wanted to purchase on the north side of town. Elmer Rolloff recalled that the "Wolf House" was first offered to us for \$20,000. In 2004 we paid six times that early asking price. Hindsight is 20/20. Or, in the words of Will Rogers: "Buy land. They ain't makin' any more of the stuff!"

December After just one year at St. John's, Pastor Nitz received a call to serve as missionary in Northern Rhodesia (in 1964 it would become independent of the United Kingdom and take the name Zambia). Pastor Nitz was, no doubt, considered because of his previous experience ministering to the native Americans on our Apache reservations in Arizona. He received the call on December 3rd and, as a welcomed Christmas present to St. John's, announced that he returned it on Christmas Day. By God's grace, he would continue to serve us until 1978.

Special thanks were given to DMLC for beautifying St. John's Advent Vespers (midweek services) with their choirs. The men's choir, The Marlut Singers (shortened form of Martin Luther) and the women singers, The Aeolian Choir, would, in addition, join the college band in the DMLC Christmas Concert on December 18th and 19th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Wayne A. Laitinen,
St. John's Archives

LWMS

Greetings fellow mission minded friends!

The summer months are very busy in many mission settings, so I'd like to share with you a few events to pray for around the globe.

For starters, the LWMS convention has returned to an in-person gathering! Praise Jesus! This year, Rochester, NY was the location of this event from June 23-26. More details to come about offerings given to support mission efforts as well as other exciting mission updates. A few of our own members were able to attend this convention, so hopefully we can hear some stories and updates from them!

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary hosted Taste of Missions on June 11. Attendees had the opportunity to hear headlines from home and world missions coordinators as well as hear directly from some missionaries. They also were able to enjoy some culinary creations from those mission settings. The highlight of the weekend was the commissioning of 6 new missionaries.

1. Pastor Keegan Dowling- Lusaka, Zambia
2. Pastor Ben Foxes- Lusaka, Zambia
3. Pastor Conifer Berg- London & U.K.
4. Pastor Samuel Lor- Campus Ministry, Minneapolis, MN
5. Pastor Joel Prange- Amazing Grace, Dickinson, ND
6. Pastor Thomas Welch- Campus Ministry, Houghton, MI

Stay tuned for more details on next year's event if you are interested in attending!

This past April our local LWMS circuit voted to use our offerings to support a mission project entitled "Repatriation Conferences." You may ask yourself "what's that?" Well, this past June 2-5 the 2nd annual WELS Missionary Kids retreat was held at Camp Croix in Danbury, WI. Missionary kids ranging from ages 14-25, from 5+ mission settings, gathered to enjoy fellowship, bible studies, and educational topics about third culture kids. Plans are underway for next year's retreat which will be a retreat for all generations of WELS MKs. If you know of any former WELS MKs, please share this opportunity with them and encourage them to go www.welsmkretreat.com for more details. Spouses and families are invited to accompany them to this retreat.

These are just a few of the many things happening with missions this summer. Many more exciting events are taking place at mission congregation around the globe.

Please continue to keep them all in your prayers as we work together to share the love of Jesus in places we cannot go.

Carrie Schaefer
LWMS Contact

Produce Tuesday

Produce, fruit, and other items will be available on Tuesday, July 12th from 10:15 am - noon at the New Ulm Food Shelf, 1305 S. Valley St.

Signup begins at 10 am. Bring your own bags or boxes.

This is a rain or shine event!
The food given is brought from Second Harvest.

This is a free event, regardless of income.

Central Africa Medical Mission

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need.” Romans 12:11-12

Greetings from all of us at the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi! I can also pass on the greetings given from Jackson Kalekwa, Clinical Officer in Charge of the Mwembezhi Lutheran Rural Health Center in Zambia, where Gary and I visited in May. We accompanied Angela Sievert and Joni Vaughn, CAMM committee members, on their visit. We spent time with Administrator Alisad Banda, and met with all the staff the day we went out to Mwembezhi. It was good to finally see in person the renovations that have happened to both buildings over the past 2 years. No wonder our staff is proud of their clinic! After a devotion, there was under-fives clinic and outpatients were seen. I saw a mom arrive on a bicycle with her baby on her back, who we had passed many kilometers back as we drove in. A group of nurses were heading out to the nearby villages in a government vehicle to offer Covid vaccines to those who needed them. We were told that Covid case numbers were rapidly rising in the surrounding district.

Here in Lilongwe, Covid numbers remain low and Malaria numbers are dropping, as it’s the cooler, dry winter season. Other respiratory illnesses are very common. It felt like fall as I headed out to the pharmacy to load the ambulance this morning. Yesterday at Msambo we were joined by Paster Msiska who led the devotion and also met with the mothers of 6 disabled children for Bible study. I will miss visiting with these moms every week, making sure their children are doing well and getting a report on how the physical therapy is going. One of the newest in the group, with a two-year-old boy named Newa who at first couldn’t even sit up alone, was smiling as she told me he is able to do so much more now.

Gary and I look back on the many changes that have taken place in both fields since God allowed us to be a part of CAMM four years ago, and we have always seen the Lord’s guidance and provision. There have also been frustrations and setbacks, such as the months we had to shut down clinic at the beginning of the pandemic. God is faithful, answered prayer, and always used difficulties for our

good. We learned along with our staff how to run our mobile clinics safely even before the Covid vaccines started here. We learned that steps could be taken towards nationalization so that the Lutheran Mobile Clinic could function without an American nurse in charge and clinic administrator. We found that prayer was a powerful tool in our personal lives too, when we were far from our family, and our 25-year-old daughter was diagnosed with MS. We have been blessed by the Lutheran Mission families here who cared for us along the way, as well as all of our Malawian staff who have been amazing to work with. Lusungu Mwambeye, Clinic Administrator and Violet Chikwatu, Nurse in Charge have completed their orientations and will be ready to take over for us when we head back to the US later this month.

As I write, Gary is in Kenya with Pastor Roebke, meeting with Kenyan pastors to learn about the Lutheran churches and possible health promoting outreach in the congregations there. He was asked to check on some borehole projects, using his civil engineering expertise. He will remain as field director remotely and continue to oversee the CAMM work in Malawi and Zambia with field visits. Please pray for our staff and the CAMM committee. Your faithful prayers and donations will allow us to continue to serve people in Africa with medical care and the love of Jesus. We thank God for you!

Your sister in Christ,
Beth Evans