

From Pastor Hank's desk:

October 11, 2018

Well the trip to South Sudan is completed, and I experienced many challenges and blessings while there. Pastor Mike Lado (who accompanied me) and I will present the details of this mission trip and the challenges we experienced while there with vivid photos. We will do this on St. John's Day, October 28, at the potluck. You are encouraged to attend and bring a dish.

This Sunday, October 14, 2018, we will honor two staff members of our CCDC at the end of the church service, which will be followed with a potluck fellowship meal. We will be celebrating the success of our preschool at St. John's, Redeemer, and at our Murray locations. This ministry has been blessed, through its leadership personnel, by its teachers, and by the children and parents, which the Lord has given us. A special thank you goes also to the CCDC School Board and its President Donna Schell. Their clear direction and fortitude during the period of recovery from losing space and investment at Christ Murray certainly encouraged and supported Director Chaney and her teaching staff as they reestablished and continued our ministry to these children in this community without interruption. We have fully recovered from any financial loss incurred because of the move and continue to serve our children and their parents being at full capacity. The Murray CCDC Satellite has put the problems encountered behind it. It has become stronger for it, and it is functioning well under Executive Director Chaney, Director Megan and her staff of 13 teachers. We have 50 children from 42 families being provided a safe Christian learning environment. All of our facilities are both State licensed and received National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSC). Our program has been reviewed and developed to meet and exceed the NLSC standards. Pastor Hank now holds chapel worship at both the Murray location and the St. John's location once each week; also the children have their Jesus time every day in their classroom. Jesus time is a structured Christian program we developed in-house and it was approved during accreditation. Our Christmas programs and Easter programs bring the message of Jesus Christ to all in attendance in a very special way. Our CCDC educational program is considered one of the best in the Salt Lake area and uses the Riggio Emilia Approach in preschool education. Let us take a moment and rejoice and be glad for the Lord has blessed our efforts and given us gifted people.

Our Redeemer location has 74 children from 55 families, 14 teachers, 1 director and 1 assistant director, overseeing this satellite ministry. We are offering an after school program at Redeemer with 30 children being served. Pastor Kevin Belter of Redeemer is now giving the chapel talks as we work together to introduce these children to him, to Redeemer's grade school community and our children's parents to Redeemer Grade School and the Lutheran Church. This has freed up Pastor Hank, so that time for a new location can be taken to meet the community demands and keep our CCDC healthy and growing without adding much more to his workload-- more on this later.

At St. John's, we have 123 students from 92 families being cared for by 24 teachers and they are overseen by our Executive Director Chaney and her 6 administrative staff personal, who are spread among all three location. They oversee the administrative records and reports, plan and execute the enrichment programs, after school programs, and Camp Wild Life as well as the financial activity of our St. John's CCDCs. This summer we again operated a successful Camp Wild Life for 140 happy campers using all three of our campuses. Our CCDC is a well-run organization that is accomplishing the mission of

sowing the seeds of faith to these children while giving them a safe environment in which to grow and develop mentally, physically, and spiritually. They know that Jesus loves them. An additional 14 children are part of St. John's afterschool program. Your CCDC is working hard to do the ministry it was challenged to do. Executive Director Chaney and her staff deserve our praise, thanks, and prayers. Do include your CCDCs, teachers and staff in your prayers. Every day is a new challenge to meet with love and dedication. Being a preschool teacher is not an easy job, but God does reward those who do this ministry well in His name.

Yes, we are in fact looking into an opportunity offered to us by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. They have offered, after searching for us based on our reputation as one of the best run CCDC's in the Salt Lake Valley, an opportunity. They invited us to establish our CCDC at their location and take over their preschool. They have clearly expressed their desire to get out of the preschool business. They understand and we insist that they would simply be renting the space to us. It would be our space and our operation. I would be the Pastor overseeing that operation, and that they would have a hands off, no say or presence interface in the CCDC with these children or teachers. They presently have about 25 children, and none of them are members of their congregation. What then we are considering is beginning another satellite location much like the operation that we now operate in Murray. With approval of the congregation, we would like to begin operating at Good Shepherd on December 1, 2018.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church's is not in fellowship with the Lutheran Churches of the Missouri Synod, and this has already been raised as a problem. I will be discussing this issue with the Rocky Mountain District Executives at the Breckenridge Pastor's Conference next week and we will resolve whatever issues are raised. I will report back to you the results. We will have a congregational voters meeting on November 11, 2018 after service. The congregation will be asked to approve or disapprove this expansion. We will also discuss this at the October 30, 2018 Council Meeting. We need to look at all aspects of what is available and why or why not we should be involved before making a final decision. I trust we can work through this in a loving Christian manner. My intention is for you to thoroughly be advised as to when, why, what and where, so that a good decision can be made and agreed to by all.

The old issue of school and church utilization and the exercise of control over the CCDC seems to still exist as the elephant in the room. The Constitution of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church and School establishes that we have one member of the Church Council, who sits on the CCDC School Board as the Director of the CCDC School Board. At present major decisions made by this school board must be approved by Church Council, and if appropriate by the congregation's Voters Assembly. Because the potential loss liabilities could be extremely high, we are advised by district and legal counsel to follow Aaron's suggestion to split into two separate taxable 5013C entities. This would place the CCDC school board directly and solely of the CCDC. Since both legal counsel and district recommended it, and since the bylaws for the school board are how the school operates; and since one church member sits on this school board as director and since the pastor is a member of that board also, I think that it would be fine to follow these recommendations and split into two legal taxable entities. At the elders meeting we consider this, and all agreed that this was a proper course of action. We will continue discuss this at the

Council Meeting on October 30, 2018 and make a recommendation to the annual voters meeting, November 11, 2018.

I believe that the recommendations made by Aaron may help solve this ongoing concern about space utilization also. If we wish to survive and thrive, we must be a place where there is peace and where we can come together to do the church's missions and enjoy fellowship without contention. If you do not desire to partake in a specific mission, then step back away from it, and do not hinder it. Let us come together in peace and celebrate the success the Lord has given us. Let us embrace the new directions in which He leads us.

What are the advantages for St. John's expanding to Good Shepherd? Good Question. An expanding and successful preschool in our area allows us to continue expanding our mission of sowing the seeds of faith without experiencing significant startup costs. It makes our CCDC program stronger by reaching out to more people, expanding our staff, making areas for promotion for our staff available, adding to our financial strength and making it possible for both raising salaries and increase contributions to St. John's. Good Shepherd will require very little remodeling or renovation, so we go into that facility without significant expense. Since none of these children belong to members of Good Shepherd, they still need the proclamation of the Gospel and the love of Christ in their lives, but are not tied to that specific church. We, therefore, can worship with them without the problem or charge of unionism. We also will give them a high quality education and become better known as a viable ministry in the valley, even though we are a downtown ministry. When the Holy Spirit opens doors for us to go in and to minister, I am of the opinion that we should not be timid. If this arrangement is not beneficial both to the children and us, we can walk away from it at any time. This additional satellite location will give St. John's a bigger known presence in the Salt Lake Valley.

It is true that St. John's membership has decreased for whatever reason. It is also true that the CCDC has made up for some of the financial shortfalls by increased contribution from them. A stronger CCDC is good for St. John's; it is good for the children and their parents and it is good for our staff. I still believe that Holy Spirit is in charge and His will, will be done with us, or in spite of us. I would prefer to be on His side. We are not going into this as just a business. It is our ministry, but each section, each ministry program needs to be self-sufficient, so as not to financially drag down the other ministries being conducted.

The biggest contentious issue has to do with the appropriation of church space. The Pastor's office, the office of the Sudanese ministry, church library, and the parsonage have all been appropriated at times because of this expanding CCDC ministry. We simply do not have the space that can sit unoccupied or not used except on occasional periods. Here we need to see that whatever sacrifices we've made, are made for the good of the children and the good of our ministry. Where this has been done out of necessity, it has also been done to bless our children. Sharing space is supporting the ministry and has been necessary because of our limited funds and space. We are all in this together and I hope you feel part of this ministry. It is my wish to move from administrative difficulties because of resistance to new fields of ministry, especially missions and outreach. To do this the CCDC needs to be stable and supported by our congregation.

Financial and Mission Projects that we need to find funds for:

Future development of our site requires us to find the funds to replace the school roof, paint and re-carpet the sanctuary, and remodel the kitchen. \$50,000 is about what is needed.

We need to find funds to support the Vicar Chuol as he completes his EITT program and qualifies for ordination. At present we are one half year into his two-year Vicarage program. We need approximately \$25,000 to fund the rest. At present Pastor is trying to get assistance through the gospel gap funds of the district to obtain half of this amount.

In South Sudan we need to assist with the rebuild of the Lutheran Church in Akobo, which was destroyed by a flood in April and we need to supply some food assistance to the congregation that has been victimized by Civil War. This is the mission church we started almost 20 years ago. I was unable to visit them because the UN refused to fly in to Akobo and there was not time or funds to fly out of South Sudan and come to Akobo from Ethiopia. I will plan to do this at a later date. Still, they need the assistance now.

The orphanage of refugees in Juba needs a house of worship and a place for school for 265 refugee orphans. At present their church and school is a giant tree. Pastor Mike and I will be attempting to raise approximately \$8-\$10,000 for this project. The building needed will be about the size of our sanctuary at St. John's and will include restrooms, food preparation facilities, and a worship Center, which during the week will be there school. The South Sudanese Episcopal Church will supply teachers for these children, if we supply the space. These children need to be educated to be given an opportunity to move out of extreme poverty. The widow who has taken them in does not have the means to put them in public school.

Pastor Malone wants also to raise about \$25,000 for the students and staff of the Lutheran Seminary in Yambio. Many of these students are from refugee camps and their families are still living in them. If the gospel is going to be spread in this war torn land, these students must be educated and financially supported, so that they can spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. They are fundamental to protecting the Gospel from false teaching that destroys the Christian Church.

Finally, yet first, there is a family in Juba, which has a critical medical emergency. James's wife is suffering extreme migraine headaches due to clogged carotid arteries. If she's not assisted immediately, she will die of a stroke or hemerage. She desperately needs to go to Khartoum in Sudan and be treated immediately. The cost for her going and being treated is estimated to be \$5000.

These issues will be presented in the form of fundraisers and I need your help and support to do this work.



Our Lutheran Church in Akobo after the April 2018 flood.

Joy and Peace in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior

Pastor Hank