Dear friends in our Savior,

Do you trust God? That may seem like a question that has an obvious answer. But is one that I encourage you to really ponder. Perhaps we might ask it differently, “How much do you trust God?” When it comes to the concept of salvation, we would easily say, “Of course we trust God.” Trust in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, though, means more than just trusting him for salvation. It means trusting him for everything! It means trusting that he will always do what he has promised he will do. It means trusting that he will keep his promise to never leave you or forsake you, even when times of danger are confronting you and you feel all alone. It means trusting that he will provide for you and your family and you were already living paycheck to paycheck before you got let go from your job and you can’t see where the next meal is going to come. It means trusting that God will never give you more than you can handle and will provide a way out from temptation when the burden is weighing heavily upon and you feel like you are about to be crushed from the weight of it and you don’t see the way out.

Jesus encourages us: “But seek first his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.” Each part of this goes hand in hand with the other. When we seek God’s kingdom and the work of his kingdom as our first priority, we can trust that God will provide all that we need. When we trust that God will provide all that we need, we can let our full focus be set on carrying out the work of God’s kingdom.

Where the rubber hits the road is that sometimes we have to go after things on God’s kingdom with blind faith that he will provide. God may place opportunities before us that we feel compelled to go after even though it appears we don’t have the financial means to do so. He may place opportunities before us that would seem to require a lot more manpower than what we can generate. He may place opportunities before us that cause us to blindly say, “Lord, you placed this before us. We don’t quite know how we can do, but we are going to go after it and trust that you will provide.”

So we get back to the original question: Do you trust God? Do you really trust that God will be faithful to his promises to always provide what we need when we are seeking the work of his kingdom? As we move forward in our collective ministry together, I pray that you consider this seriously. God has placed some exciting opportunities before us to expand our ministry and to expand his kingdom by reaching more people with the Gospel. Though we don’t know the exact means we have to go after those opportunities, we are confident the Lord will provide. He may provide through you being sacrificial with what God has given you. He may provide through additional students to our school. Or he may provide in other ways. May we place our full confidence in God that he will provide what we need to carry out the work of his kingdom.

Pastor Vannieuwenhoven
Our Attitude toward Money

Money is what we make it. Money can own us or be owned by us. Money can be our servant or our master. It depends entirely on our attitude. This is why the Bible says that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter God’s kingdom (Matthew 19:24). It is not the rich man’s money but the rich man’s attitude toward money that turns him away from God and other people toward himself and his money. Likewise, it is not the poor man’s poverty, but the poor man’s attitude toward money that turns him away from God and other people and makes him covetous, grasping, and every bit as selfish in his poverty as the wealthy man.

Much of Jesus’ teaching focused on money, so we need to develop the right attitude toward it and be concerned about its use and misuse. Whether God gives us little or much money, we need to be faithful stewards of it and learn an attitude of contentment. This contentment comes from faith in Jesus that he has won heaven for us and provides for our daily needs. According to the apostle Paul, we are very rich if we are satisfied with what we have. In 1 Timothy 6:6-10 he wrote, “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

Unfortunately, so many people have become so eager to have money and the things that money can buy that they have lost much of life’s real value and purpose. Poverty is a problem, not only with those who have no money, but also with those who have much. There are many who don’t lack money lack satisfaction because no amount of money satisfies.

As we examine our attitudes toward money, we need to remember that money can do many things, but it can’t buy happiness or heaven. That is only found through Jesus.

MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT—

Campus Ministry
The WELS Campus Ministry Committee (CMC) is an eight-member committee of laymen and pastors who serve under the Board for Home Missions. The CMC exists to assist congregations in ministering to college students and other young adults with the means of grace so that they may grow in the faith and be trained for service in Christ’s kingdom. These congregations reach out to about 6,500 students. Please consider finding someone in your congregation to gather each college-age student’s educational plans and share it with the CMC. To sign up and learn more about submitting information, visit wels.net/campus-ministry.

Cross-Cultural Ministry
Approximately 29 percent of the BHM budget for fiscal year 2015-16 is allocated to cross-cultural ministries. The BHM helps support African, Chinese, Hispanic, Hmong, Korean, Muslim, Navajo, Sudanese, and Vietnamese ministries. Seventeen weekly Hispanic worship services are held, averaging 1,500 in worship. Nine Hmong pastors serve about 700 souls.
MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

The following are highlights from the Ministry Leadership Team meeting on July 18, 2016:

• The meeting began by studying Chapter 9 of “The Peacemaker’s Calling” from A Heart at Peace – Biblical Strategies for Christians in Conflict by Kenneth J. Kremer.

• The following Membership Action was taken:
  - Transfer In – Nick & Stephanie Koren & Parker from Living Hope in Midlothian, VA
  - Transfer Out – Kristin Pomarico and Anthony to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Des Moines, WA
  - Release – Marion Cheslock by her request

• Our Total Membership remains at 226 with Communicant membership at 159.

• Pastor reported that he will be at Camp South next week Mon-Fri but it will not affect any services. We have a total of 15 people attending from our congregation. Our location is a site for Pokemon Go – the virtual world application so we may see some random strangers walking around our campus trying to win a new prize.

• Mark Thiesfeldt and Brian Busch reported that we have 57 students currently enrolled for school. Mark has a few prospects from VBS and is meeting with a mother and 2 girls on Monday. Mark is still hoping to be in the low 60s for enrollment. Other than that, the group is focusing on their regular summer activities including VBS and getting ready for school. Lynn donated money and time to replace the doors in the overflow classroom and they look very nice.

• We have 85 kids for VBS. Over twenty of each of the 3yr olds, 4 yr olds and kindergartners – very heavy on the younger ages. This is a great thing because we can use it as a recruiting tool for our school. 4th of July parade went well – smaller group but a lot of brochures were distributed.

• Rick Bublitz shared the financial report to team. Church offerings were projected at $207K and ended up with $205. School income was projected at $310K and we ended up with $309K. We had to pay RotoRooter for repairs to a backflow valve for $1,266. Expenses for June were $41,518 and income was $17,926 so our net loss was $23,592. General Operating Fund started in Jul 2015 at $37,279.50 and expenses were $42,648.12 for the year which left us with a net loss of $5,358.62. Motion made by Jeff Berg seconded by Brian Busch to move the dedicated capital improvement cash into a separate savings account, motion carried. Motion made by Chris Teeples seconded by Brian Busch to approve borrowing funds as needed from the endowment account to temporarily cover monthly operating expenses shortfalls for July/Aug and payback when able, motion carried.

• Dave provided the update for Land and Facilities. Mike wanted to thank Lynn’s donation of time and money for her doors. Lynn would like her classroom carpet cleaned. Mike wanted to know if we should get a quote for the classroom and church. Mike will get quotes for professional cleaning and if not, we’ll ask for volunteers. Squirrel holes on the school still need to be repaired. Some of the wood trim (fascia boards) is looking rather rough as well. School starts Aug 15th so we need to get this repaired ideally before school starts. Many lighting ballasts need replacing in the school and Mike is asking if we can get them replaced. Mark said a school parent is a licensed electrician and he will be talking to him about getting them replaced soon. Mike wants to know if we should hire Mold Zero and get it treated before the start of school. The quote was $3,765 which included a $1,500 discount for us being a church and comes with a 1-yr guarantee. Motion made by Chris Teeples seconded by Brian Busch to approve hiring Mold Zero to perform the mold remediation, motion carried.

• Jeff presented some preliminary responses from the survey of previous Jeff Davis clients with the MLT. Jeff requested that the rest of the MLT provide him with the results of their survey interviews prior to the next MLT meeting (Aug 16th) for tabulation so we can make a recommendation to the congregation.

• Each Board should be going through their budget numbers for next meeting. Pastor wants to encourage each board to write those goals as tight/realistic budgets for “what we need for now to get by”, that would help make this a very efficient meeting. Rick will enter the figures into the budget prior to the meeting.

• Chris mentioned that we need to look at utility budgets and everyone needs to keep an eye on the HVAC thermostat settings as they’re often lowered and then not adjusted after meetings occur.

• Next Leadership Team meeting scheduled for August 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

• Budget/Elections Meeting Congregational Meeting scheduled for August 28, 2016, 11:45 a.m.
SENIOR WINNERS

The Senior Winners Group will not be meeting for the summer. They will begin meeting again in September. If you have any questions, please speak to John Kim, Sr.

Bible Information Class (BIC)

Pastor Vann will be starting the next Bible Information Class on Tuesday, August 23. The class will meet for 13 weeks from 6:30-8:00 p.m. This class is required for anyone who wishes to become a communicant member. This is a great review of the foundational truths of God's Word for those who are many years removed from Catechism Class. It is also a great way to invite a friend or neighbor to learn more about what the Bible says. If you are interested in attending this class or if you know of someone who is, just let Pastor Vann know.

6th-8th GRADE CATECHISM

It is that time of year for Catechism classes to start up again. At Northdale Lutheran, Catechism instruction is for all students in 6-8th grade and is required for a young person to be confirmed and become a communicant member of our congregation. Those students who attend our Lutheran School receive their instruction during the school day. For all those children who do not attend our school, Catechism is offered on Tuesdays from 5:15 until 6:15 p.m. These classes will begin on Tuesday, August 23. If your child will be attending this class, please speak to Pastor Vann to let him know so that he knows how many books to order for the class.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study meets the second Sunday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This year, they have been studying through the book, “Prepared to Answer.” This is a book that deals with many contemporary topics. This study will help the participants to think through these different questions ahead of time so that each person will be prepared to answer when the question is asked. All ladies are invited to join us for this study. They will not be meeting for the summer. They will meet again in the fall.
SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School begins for our young children ages 3 through 5th grade the Sunday after Labor Day: September 11. This is our registration and kick off day. We encourage all of our families to participate in our Sunday School program. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or teaching, you can speak to Pastor Vann or Kristin Phillips.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

We are currently studying the book of Luke in our Sunday morning Bible Class. This interesting book presents Luke's careful investigation of everything that Jesus did here on this earth. He presents it to us so that we can know with certainty what we have been taught about Jesus. We'd love to have you join us for this study. We meet at 9:25 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Daily Devotion and Announcements

Every day Pastor Vann sends out an email that has a daily devotion that comes from WELS as well as any announcements about happenings around the church and school. If you would like to be added to that daily devotion list, please email Pastor Vann at pastorvann@gmail.com. This is also open to any friends or relatives you have who might be interested. Please encourage them to sign up as well.

CANVAS NIGHT

Before Pastor Vann's Tuesday Bible Information Class starts again, he would like to offer a canvassing opportunity for anyone who is interested on Tuesday nights. Canvassing is getting out in the neighborhoods around our congregation to meet the people who live around us and find out how we might serve their spiritual needs. The main focus right now would be inviting people to have their children join us for School. Everyone is invited to join Pastor in these efforts. You don't have to come every week, but if you are open on a Tuesday night, come and join him for an hour of reaching out into our community. We'll meet in Pastor's office at 6:30 p.m. Training will be provided. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.
**GIVING TREE**

A Giving Tree has been posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall that shares some of the wish list items that we have around the church and school in order to give you an opportunity to help out with some needed items around here that are outside of our current budget plan. Here’s how it works: select and remove one or more of the leaves from the tree. Use one of the marked envelopes provided for your donation. You should put the leaf in your envelope along with the donation. You can give the envelope to Pastor Vann, Mr. Thiesfeldt or put it in the offering plate. Thank you for considering this opportunity to support the ministry of Northdale Lutheran Church and School. What a great way for us to partner together as we seek to share Christ with our world.

**Thursday Night Bible Study**

We are coming to an end of our study of the Life of Martin Luther on Thursday evenings. We will most likely be done by the end of August. Then we will return to our regular Thursday evening study beginning with the book of Exodus. More information will be coming on when this study will start as we get closer. Look for more information in the weekly worship folder and in Pastor’s Daily Devotions.

**Congregational Meeting**

At the congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 26, the congregation gave the Ministry Leadership Team the ability to wait until September to approve the budget for the current year. That will help us make a better plan because we will know the number of students we currently have enrolled in our school and will allow us to work with a more accurate income number. The congregation also gave some direction to our Ministry Leadership Team as far as our Building Project and Fund Raising Campaign is concerned. More information will be coming out about this in the near future. The next Congregational Meeting will be August 28 where the budget will be presented and a direction voted on for our school expansion.
Welcome to the New School Year!

We give thanks to God for the many blessings he gives to us through Northdale Lutheran School. At NLS it is our privilege to share God's Word each and every day with our students. Each year the faculty chooses a theme which guides us through the school year. This year's theme is John 10:14 - “I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” May God bless us this school year. May he lead us to know His love for us and to put our trust in Jesus as our Savior. May he bless us as we learn to know one another and grow as a school family.

Family Support Team

As we seek to serve more families from Northdale Lutheran Church and the general community, sometimes there are obstacles that must be overcome for enrollment at NLS to become a reality. The two most common obstacles are financial difficulties and transportation to school. We are looking for ways that we can assist these families and provide Christian education for these students. Please consider whether you might be a part of our Family Support Team. Could you provide a donation to our tuition assistance fund? Could you provide transportation to or from school for a family? If you would like to help in some way or learn more, please contact Mr. Thiesfeldt.

Orientation Meeting

Thanks to all the school families who were able to attend the orientation meeting on Monday, August 1st. It was wonderful to see everyone again and be able to share with you our plans for the upcoming school year including some developments in our school ministry. We plan to continue growing as a school so we may serve our students

Home Visits

Home Visits are underway to families with children new to NLS or new to a particular classroom. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in your home, developing relationships and getting more comfortable with one another. The home visits help us get a head start on the school year so that we can make the best use of our time together.

First Day of School

School starts Monday, August 15th. Remember that the school day schedule is as follows: Before school care runs from 7:00-7:30am. Classrooms open at 7:30 with the day officially starting at 8:00am. Normal dismissal time is 3:00pm with after school care running from 3:15-6:00pm. Remember that on the first day of school we have only a half day with dismissal at 12:00pm. Lunch will not be at school the first day. Our first full day of school will be Tuesday, August 16th.

Enrollment and Registration

All families are reminded to finish up all steps for enrollment and registration on TADS along with setting the tuition payment plan (tuition agreement). All new students must have records transferred to NLS, and all kindergarteners and seventh graders must have updated health records (physical exam form and immunizations). Please contact Mr. Thiesfeldt if you have any questions. Thank you for taking care of this promptly so that once the school year starts we can focus on learning!
August 2016

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED