

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes **Summary**
March 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a bible study of Romans.

Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Dave Spaude, Kirk Geotzka, Scott Templeton, Rick Treptow (by Zoom), Tyler Jessie (by Zoom)

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of February

Pastor shared with the council things he and the elders have been doing to try and stay connected to members who feel uneasy worshipping during the pandemic. They have been making calls, offering private communion at church, and mailing sermons and bulletins to those who don't have access to internet.

After discussion, it was decided that Monday night services would not continue after Lent

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tyler presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$24,414.93 through the end of February. MSC (Moved, seconded and confirmed) to accept financial report for February 2021

SPECIAL REPORTS

The property committee chair presented a \$6000 budget for all necessary Live Streaming Equipment. MSC to spend up to \$6000 on the live streaming equipment and labor.

Due to the slightly higher than budgeted cost for the live streaming equipment, at this point sealing the Cata-ract parking lot will be delayed until next year.

Steps are being taken to restart the Jesus Cares Ministry.

OLD BUSINESS

We will discuss refinancing the church loan with Brad Rahmlow and Cody Heller at next month's council meeting.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

March 2021 Monthly Newsletter

*Proverbs 16:3 "Commit to the Lord whatever you do,
and He will establish your plans."*



When the Central Africa Medical Mission was established sixty years ago, those who were on the state-side committee and their advisors had the foresight to establish a clear plan for the organization. When looking at a country for our services, they determined it was important for a mission to be established and that we could support the mission work through our humanitarian work. They also desired to only go into a country if there was an opportunity for Nationals to serve our patients. Finally, they set forth guidelines about nationalizing the clinic in future years. Because of the foundation laid in the last 60 years and God's continued generosity, we have been blessed to serve over 50,000 patients per year in Zambia and Malawi.

As we approach our 60th anniversary in Zambia, we reflect on God's continued grace to our clinic and our staff, which includes 10 Nationals in Zambia. Our Zambia clinic has been operating with little over-

continued on back page of newsletter



Our God is...Almighty

Everything that exists has attributes or characteristics. They are what help to define that thing. God has attributes as well. This year in our newsletter articles we are going to take a look at some of the attributes of God. As we consider his attributes, we will be considering God's own essence. As we consider his attributes, we will be confronted by mysteries beyond our full comprehension. Yet with that said, we listen to his Word, marvel at his attributes, and believe.

How strong are you?

If you want to see incredible physical strength, watch "The World's Strongest Man" competition. To win, the competitors have to do such demanding feats as lift 300-pound round stones onto a pedestal, flip huge tires over and over, and pull large buses—in the least amount of time.

Such strength pales in comparison to the almighty power of the one true God.

God's power isn't limited to a competition, and he doesn't use it to win prizes for himself. God uses his power for our benefit.

The greatest proof of God's almighty power is when Jesus was raised to life after being crucified.

Jesus had the weight of the world on his back in the form of every sin of every person for all time. We rejoice because he was willing to lift the heavy weight of sin off us and endure the excruciating

pain and punishment of hell in our place.

Jesus was humbled, but only temporarily. Three days later, God showed his almighty power when Jesus became the only person to overcome sin, death, and hell.

The Apostle Paul writes, "By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also" (1 Corinthians 6:14).

Jesus won the victory of eternal life. He gives the hope of heaven to all people. Now that is a feat of strength!

God is not done revealing his almighty power. On the Last Day, Jesus will return to earth to raise our bodies back to life and to reunite them with our souls. We may be weak, but God uses his strength for us. Trust in the power of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Worship with us during the Easter season. Together we can rejoice in God's almighty power.



You may recall that on October 18 of 2020, we took a door offering to help our brothers and sisters at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church in Roscoe, IL. The door offering that day totaled \$535. That \$535 was combined with the \$500 that the church council approved to be sent from our budget. Our offering was then joined with offerings from other WELS congregations from our district. Below is a letter of thanks from our District Mission Board in response to our offering and the offerings of the other congregations of our district.



Fellow Heir(s) of Eternal Life,

Words cannot begin to express the thanks that we have to our gracious God and to you for helping our brothers and sisters in need at Amazing Grace in Roscoe, IL. God has used your generous and selfless gifts to be an incredible blessing to the believers of Amazing Grace during their time of need.

Our prayer was that God, through the generous hearts of our district, would be able to raise \$20,000 for Amazing Grace so that they could continue to proclaim the gospel in their mission field. We also knew that by alerting our district of their needs, prayers would also be offered to the Lord of the Church and words of encouragement would be sent through our acts of love. As so, we humbly asked for your assistance.

God has richly and abundantly blessed our efforts. As a result, God blessed Amazing Grace with gifts of \$97,805. God has certainly thrown open the floodgates so that his name may continue to be proclaimed in the Roscoe area. We give thanks to our Heavenly Father for all the blessings that have been received and the prayers and support that have been offered. To God be all the glory!

Our God is so gracious, that he did not spare his only Son, but gave him up for us all. He allows us to proclaim that grace in our homes, churches, cities, surrounding areas and world. By supporting your congregational mission offering (CMO) at your local congregation, our synod is able to aid us in spreading the good news of Jesus to all the world. As the apostle Paul encouraged the church in Corinth, we encourage you to continue to excel in the grace of giving. For in Christ, we have everything! May His name be proclaimed so that more may be saved on the day of the resurrection.

In Christ's humble service,

Pastor Paul Schupmann

(Western Wisconsin District Mission Board –
Shepherd to Amazing Grace Ev. Lutheran, Ros-
coe, IL)

LIBRARY CORNER

Bible Basics - Finding Tools to Read and Interpret Scripture by Donald W. Patterson is from the *Bible Discovery Series* and is in the Bible Aids section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at our BRF location. This book is meant for all levels of Bible readers. It gives basic information on how the Bible is organized and gives guidance on how to understand the Scriptures. It also gives tools to use to research topics and to find other sections of Scripture that relate to what you are studying.

To check out, write the date, your name and the name of the book/DVD/CD in the notebook on the shelf.



A LOOK AT LUTHER

LUTHER AT THE WARTBURG

The emperor and the officials connected with the pope were displeased that Luther took such a firm stand and said, “Unless you can prove from the Bible that I have made wrong statements and have spoken contrary to God’s Word, I refuse to recant. My conscience is bound in the Word of God. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.” They feared that the people would admire him as a great hero and would follow him as their leader. The only way this could be stopped was by putting him to death. But since the emperor had promised him safety for twenty days, he could not be arrested until this time was up. The Diet meanwhile declared Luther an outlaw and ordered that he should be turned over to the emperor for punishment. Luther expected this, and therefore he quickly left Worms.

God, however, did not allow Luther to fall into the hands of his enemies. He provided a safe place of hiding for him. The Elector of Saxony had several strong castles in his country. He told some of his men, who were friends of Luther, to take him secretly to one of these castles. The Elector himself did not wish to know at what place Luther was staying. That way, he could truthfully tell the emperor that he did not know.

As Luther was traveling through a forest, a group of horsemen suddenly dashed out of the woods, pulled him out of the carriage, and carried him off with them. The men who were with him ran away in fear, thinking that Luther had been captured by his enemies. But Luther knew all about this scheme of his friends and calmly let the Elector’s men lead him away. After riding on horseback through the thick forests for some time, they came to the old castle Wartburg, which was on a steep hill near Eisenach. Behind the walls of this castle Luther was safe. No one but a few friends knew that he was there. The others feared that he had been killed. For a long time most of the people



at the Wartburg did not know who their guest was. Instead of being dressed as a monk, Luther wore the clothing of the knights, as the warriors were called in those days. Luther went by the name of “Knight George.” Sometimes he accompanied the knights on their hunting trips and tried to act like one of them, but he did not enjoy this kind of life. He much preferred to stay in his room with books that had been sent to him.

Luther stayed at the Wartburg about a year. He was very eager to get back among the people and preach God’s Word to them. But the Elector would not give him permission to leave. Luther was not idle during this time. He wrote letters to his friends and gave them advice for carrying on his work. But perhaps the greatest and best thing he did at the Wartburg was to translate the whole New Testament from Greek into German. His translation was printed and given to the people, who were happy that they could read so much of the Bible in their own language. Many who had not heard Luther preach could now learn the way of salvation by reading the Bible. The people, who had feared that Luther was dead, gave thanks to God that he was still alive and could carry on his work.

continued from insert

sight from the stateside committee for close to 15 years and thrives! In fact, they were recently granted the honor of being chosen by the Ministry of Health to be the site as a cholera clinic over the government clinic. We celebrate our clinic’s success and continue to thank God for the opportunities we have been given to serve Him there.

Although 2020 was a tough year for the world, it gave us time and the opportunity to look at our clinic procedures in Malawi which have been operational for over 50 years. We currently employ 11 Nationals, one of whom is a registered nurse who received the Althea Sauer scholarship for her nursing degree. Fifty years ago, we were established to empower the National staff to take on more responsibility when the time was right.

After 50 years, our CAMM stateside committee, with guidance from the Administration Committee for Africa, and with prayerful consideration, has decided that the time is right. God has provided us the right staff, the right ex-patriots to train the staff and the right support to do this. Beth and Gary Evans are spending their last 18 months in the field training and evaluating the staff so we can confidently empower the staff to take on the day-to-day clinic operations.

We thank God for the opportunity he allows every day for our clinics to operate, for the staff to care for the patients, for the chances our staff is given to share their faith and for his continued generosity. We thank God daily for you, our supporters, as well – for without your prayers and YOUR generosity, we could not continue the work that we do. Please continue to keep our clinics, staff and the patients in your prayers. We know that God will bless our plans and guide our decisions for His glory, as he tells us in Jeremiah 29:11 “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Written by Shelly Sievert on behalf of the CAMM Stateside Committee:



N6598 County Highway A
Black River Falls, WI 54615
(mailing address)

N6774 Acorn Ave.
Sparta, WI 54656

Phone: 715-284-0772
Pastor: Joel Neumann

We're on the Web!
www.faithwels.com

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is a part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a church body with congregations in all fifty states and missionaries in 25 countries.

We are a Christ Preaching Church! We believe, teach and confess that Jesus is God's own Son, who came into the world to be the Savior of all people so that through his sufferings, death and resurrection, we might have forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We Are A Bible Teaching Church! We believe and teach that the Bible is the true and divinely inspired Word of God, the sole authority for Christian faith and life.

The Messenger is published monthly for the congregation and friends of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church. Its purpose is to provide information regarding all areas of congregational news and to offer enlightening articles.

Anyone wishing to contribute articles, please contact Laura Mueller at the following email address: muellerlaura@hotmail.com. Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.

Holy Week Worship Schedule



PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 28 – 8:00 A.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

– 9:45 A.M. (CATARACT)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1 – 4:30 P.M. (CATARACT)

– 6:30 P.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

– 4:30 P.M. (CATARACT)

– 6:30 P.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4 – 8:00 A.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

– 9:45 A.M. (CATARACT)

April	
Gary and Pam Johnson	4/3
Jacob and Sandy Bue	4/26



MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

Ladies Aid

Thursday—April 8 @ 12:30 p.m. in Cataract

Ad Hoc Child Protection

Saturday—April 10 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls

Youth Group

Sunday—April 11 @ 2:00 p.m. in Black River Falls

Ladies of Faith

Monday – April 12 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Outreach Meeting

Sunday – April 18 @ 12:30 pm in Black River Falls

Church Council Meeting

Monday—April 19 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Congregational Meeting

Sunday – April 25 @ 11:15 am in Black River Falls

Faith Teachers Meeting

Sunday – April 25 @ 12:30 p.m. in Black River Falls

April	
Lori Spaude	4/2
Cory Bue	4/3
Xylr Heller	4/4
Sandy Bue	4/10
Evan Markhardt	4/18
Karen Jessie	4/18
Jacob Bue	4/18
Chris Manske	4/25
Cliff Kremmer	4/27
Penny Nicolai	4/27
Judy Sommers	4/29