

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.



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

N6774 Acorn Ave.
Sparta, WI 54656

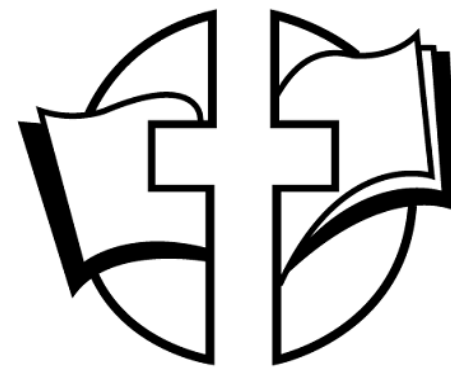
Phone: 715-284-0772
Pastor: Joel Neumann

***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, contact—in person or by email—or Laura Mueller: muellerlaura@hotmail.com or Pastor Neumann: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com

Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.

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



The Messenger

April 2022

The Messenger

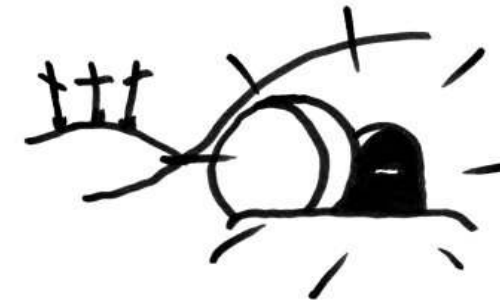
What's so important about Jesus dying and rising from the dead?

"I don't want to die. I want to live."

A man I had known for about 25 minutes said these words to me as we were flying over the Caribbean Sea between Puerto Rico and Antigua. We were in the middle of a horrific lightning storm. Ten seconds before he said this, our airplane had lost all power and began to dip rather suddenly towards the deep blue expanse of water beneath us. Thankfully, the airplane regained power after only a few agonizing seconds, and we quickly climbed back to our cruising altitude.

"Death scares me," he went on, "because I know nothing about it. I only know how to live."

Choosing between something you know nothing about and something you know quite a bit about is a pretty easy decision. Most everyone feels more confident with what they are familiar with. That's why this gentleman was not the first person to express himself in this way. He most certainly will not be the last. Who can



worse storms and made it, that the backup generators on the plane would keep any power outage from harming us, we would have been much more confident despite the storm.

Jesus makes a much greater guarantee when

he tells us we don't have to be afraid of death. And he proved it by living after he died. The dead body of Jesus was placed in a grave on Friday evening, but he rose from the dead three days later.

When you follow Jesus in faith, death's scare is taken away. The living Jesus gives you the confidence that your grave will be empty, just like his was. He tells all his disciples, "Because I live, you also will live" (John 14:19).

Jesus' death and resurrection are important because it guarantees for his believers that they too will rise from the dead and live forever!

feel more confident about dying than living since we only know about life and not death?

Jesus had never died either. But as he hung on his cross, he knew it was coming. In fact, he had told his followers the day before that "it was for this reason (dying) that he came to this hour" (John 12:27).

Jesus chose death, and he did so with you in mind. Jesus chose death to prove to you that those who follow him have no reason to be afraid of death.

If the pilot of our airplane had guaranteed the passengers before that flight that we would land safely, that he had flown through

EASTER FOR KIDS

Faith Lutheran Church invites all children 4 yrs. old to 6th grade to our first Easter for Kids event. At this Easter for Kids day they will celebrate Easter by learning the Easter story, make projects, play games, sing songs, and have an Easter egg hunt. **This Easter for Kids event will be on Saturday, April 9 from 9 – 11 am at our Black River Falls campus.**



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10 – 8:00 A.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

– 9:45 A.M. (CATARACT)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14 – 4:30 P.M. (CATARACT)

– 6:30 P.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15* – 4:30 P.M. (CATARACT)

– 6:30 P.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17 – 8:00 A.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

– 9:45 A.M. (CATARACT)

***Please note
that the two
Good Friday ser-
vices are two
different ser-
vices**

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our next congregational meeting will be Sunday, April 24 in Cataract. Please watch the bulletin for the time.



“Show your Faith”



“Show your Faith” – the Outreach Committee would like to make sure new and old members have a Faith T-shirt as a part of their wardrobe. Maybe you don’t have one yet, or maybe yours is faded, or maybe you want a long sleeve one in addition to your short sleeve one. Sign-up sheets are at both worship locations. There is no cost to you - just wear your shirt and "show your Faith." The last day to order is Sunday, April 24.

The Live Tomb – a Unique Opportunity to Witness

Living Tomb Guard Spots Still Open

“The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. “Sir,” they said, “we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise again.’ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.” “Take a guard,” Pilate answered. “Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.” Matthew 27:62-65



There are still a few spots open for guarding our living tomb. This is a great opportunity to witness to our community the saving love of our Lord. Consider making this an Easter tradition for your family. Sign-up sheets are at both our Cataract and Black River Falls locations. Contact Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt with any questions.



Live Tomb Set-up

We can use some help setting-up the live tomb display on Friday evening, April 8, at 6:00 p.m. No experience necessary. Feel free to bring your drill driver and staple gun.

WEBMASTER WANTED

Do you know your way around a computer? Are you plugged in to what is going on at church? Do you have an understanding of what makes a good website? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, we would ask for you to consider whether you have the time, skills, and desire to serve as Faith Lutheran Church’s webmaster (the one who takes care of our website).

This would require independent working as well as coordination with Pastor to determine items to be included on the website.

Please speak to Pastor Neumann or a member of the church council if you might be interested. Thank you.



HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS

New Bible Class—Cataract Campus

Not everything Jesus said is always so easy to understand. For example Jesus said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:26). Say what? Or what about this one: “When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. He

told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!”” (Mark 4:10-12) Why?

This Bible Class will answer the “why did Jesus say that” and “what did

Jesus mean by that” questions that sometimes arise with some of his hard sayings. In studying these sayings, we will be given a better understanding of his Word as well as added confidence as we read the gospels on our own.

When: Sundays—April 24 to May 22

1 Peter

New Bible Class—Black River Falls Campus

It’s not easy being the only one in your family who goes to church. It’s bad enough that they don’t go. It’s worse that they make fun of you for going. If you would pad your expense account, so could the other salesmen. But if you don’t, they can’t. “Come on,” they urge you, “just a little.” You refuse. The next day someone has spilled paint on your car.

Persecution. Not by a firing squad. Not by death threats. Not by the government. But it’s persecution nonetheless; it’s more subtle persecution. Perse-

cution from friends, family, and peers. They won’t take your life...but they will take your peace...and they’d like to take your faith, if you’ll let them.

How do you respond? Begin by using Peter’s survival manual. He understood persecution. Beaten, jailed, threatened, punished – he had personally experienced them all. He knew the sting of a false word and the angry whip. No doubt he’d seen some Christian’s stand and others fall. He’d seen enough to know what it takes to stay

strong in tough times.

His counsel may surprise you, but his God-inspired counsel will sustain you. It will be just what you need so that “your faith...may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed” (1 Peter 1:7).

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.
1 Peter 1:3

LWMS SPRING RALLY

The Spring Rally of the LWMS Scenic Coulee Circuit will meet on Saturday, April 23. The rally will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, West Salem. Registration will begin at 12:30 pm and the rally will begin at 1 pm.

The guest speaker for this rally will be Beth Scharf from Martin Luther College. Here is a snippet of what she will be talking about.

Martin Luther College is your college. Trained to educate, preach, counsel, and guide, the men and women studying at MLC learn to infuse their professional techniques with servant attitudes and Christ-centered focus. This unique aspect of ministry training prepares your called workers to reach worldwide with the Gospel message and to nurture you as you walk through your God-given life. Join Beth Scharf as she shares MLC's vision through the Equipping Christian Witnesses campaign to grow our student body, assist students with financial benefits and improve our campus to fit the needs of generations to come.

Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include church promotional video and community concert in the park. Our meeting will take place Sunday, April 3, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.

BRF LANDSCAPE BRIGADE

Our building and grounds give glory to God. There is plenty of landscape maintenance to be done around out BRF building site: pruning, mulching, fertilizing, weeding and other general landscaping. Consider helping by being a part of the BRF “landscape brigade.” We will usually meet the second Saturday of each month, April through October, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you would like to. Our first brigade event will take place on Saturday, April 2. Note this one is the first Saturday of April.



Go Fish!

Pegs & Jokers & FiSH!

The FiSH group (Faith’s Social Harbor) invites adults for an evening of fun playing Pegs & Jokers. This hybrid card and board game comes to us from Texas. Experience is NEVER required with any of our activities – come, learn and have fun! We’ll meet Saturday, **April 9, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the BRF building location. Feel free to bring a snack to share. This is a great opportunity for you to invite a friend, relative, or coworker. It would also be a great opportunity for a “date night.” FiSH is our social group geared toward recreational activities for adults, single or married, younger or older.

If you have questions, talk with Ken & Carolyn Diener, Brad & Annette Markhardt, or Pastor Neumann




JESUS CARES MINISTRIES
Worship at the Cross

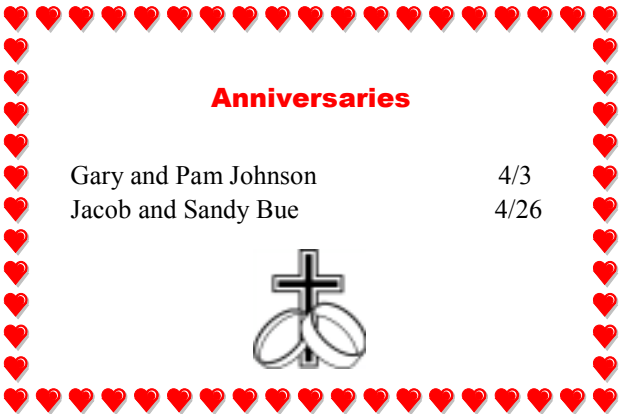
Next Worship at the
Cross will be Saturday,
April 30, at 1 pm at our
Black River Falls campus.



More information can be found on the table in the gathering area. Please take a copy if you are interested, or go to www.lwms.org and click on Convention 2022.




Lori Spaude	4/2
Cory Bue	4/3
Xylr Heller	4/4
Marjorie Boisen	4/7
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



Anniversaries

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



WELS Night at American Family Field

Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS members for the return of WELS Night at American Family Field! Watch the Brewers take

on the Pirates on Friday, July 8. Seating will be together for WELS members in all three seating areas. Tickets for WELS

members and guests are discounted up to 50%. See the bulletin board for more information.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2022

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

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Grady Severson, Dave Spaude, Kirk Goetzka, Brad Markhardt, Tyler Jessie, Scott Templeton

ELDER'S REPORT

1. Elders discussed and will be utilizing the "A God Lived Life" program put out by synod during the months of August, September, October and November. These special services will include a bible class one time per month during the church service.
2. Council moved to remove Tim Loftus from membership. Moved, Seconded, Confirmed (MSC)

PASTOR'S REPORT

1. Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of February (February's average attendance was 76 in-person; 87 including online opportunities)
2. Pastor Baerbock will be offered an honorarium for teaching bible class.
3. 5 youth and 3 chaperones will be attending the International Youth Rally this year.
4. Council discussed the pricing and uses of the new hymnal and service builder. (The current plan is to budget the purchase of new hymnals into the budget for 2023)
5. We are still looking for a webmaster, if you know anyone who has been gifted in this area of ministry please encourage them to talk to pastor about the position.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1. Tyler presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$32,796.38 through the end of February, 2022. MSC to accept financial report for February, 2022.
2. An additional \$5,000 gift was given towards the Jubilee Debt Reduction Fund after it concluded. This offering will be applied to the loan at the end of the month. That brings the total of gifts given for the Jubilee Debt Reduction Offering to \$101,507. Praise and thanks be to God!

SPECIAL REPORTS

1. Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt
2. Council moved to go ahead with the blacktop sealing at the Cataract location. The cost will be around \$3,500.
3. The property committee is also continuing to look for a projector and a new lawn mower for the Cataract location.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer

The next Council Meeting will be held in BRF April 19th at 6pm.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie



CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

March 2022



The Light in the Dark

The Lutheran Mission Rural Health Centre is one of the evangelical tools that God through His children set up 60 years ago. The clinic still stands today with the same mission, which is *to serve as the supportive branch to the gospel mission by communicating Christ's love and by caring concern for the physical needs of our fellow man.*

For me, there is nothing better than being privileged to serve, to be part of the mission and be able to celebrate the 60th Anniversary for the Central Medical Mission working in Zambia. CAMM Stateside Committee has been very supportive to the operation of the Clinic. It is also gratifying to see staff and volunteers willingly uphold the institution's mission.

"Where is the light coming from?". This was an interesting question that came from one of the community members after the area had no power for several days. "Does it mean that the clinic has a special cable that brings the power and gives you light?". The man wondered what was bringing LIGHT when the whole area was in the DARK. The question sounds so innocent, and one is tempted to answer it as quickly as one can. The answer would be as easy as saying we are using a solar system at the clinic. But guess what? This is a reminder, that the light to shine throughout at all times, that light is Jesus Christ. ***"Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8: 12), and "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden."*** (Matthew 5:14)

The second part of our mission is "caring concern for the physical need of our fellow man". This entails the promotion and preservation of good health, restoring health, and relieving suffering and distress, including unborn children, disadvantaged minorities, marginalized communities, and the elderly. This part is being played by the members of the staff dedicated to services at the clinic with support from CAMM and all the supporters who have given gifts in the form of material and financial help. Friends, the same question may be asked, do you have a special cable? Yes, our special cable is Jesus Christ inviting us to eternal life. While in this world, let the light be seen by others. Every help rendered to the patients by members of staff, and gifts of all forms are because of the light in your in life.

In conclusion, using solar power for light and energy reminds us that there is light, which is ever shining, ever giving light. And when the electricity company cannot supply power, with solar you can be assured of light especially in this part of the world where we have sunshine most of the day even when there is a cloud cover. God is powerful over every situation. May God strengthen your life in whatever situation you maybe passing through, remembering that life is in Jesus Christ, our permanent light even when life is difficult. Jesus Christ is the light that shines in the dark.

Thank you and may God bless you,
Alisad Banda
Clinic Administrator - Zambia


Christ Centered Healthcare Supporting the Gospel Ministry

Donations may be made by Check: Payable to Central Africa Medical Mission and Mailed to:
WELS Gift Processing
N16 W23377 Stone Ridge Drive
Waukesha WI 53188
Or Donate to CAMM online @ www.camm.us/donate-to-camm

Faith Lutheran Church - Online Giving

Great news! Online or electronic giving is available for Faith Lutheran Church! For those who don't find traditional cash or check convenient in today's world, online giving is a fast and easy option.

Two very good resources are available which are "fee free" for the giver and the church: **Thrivent Choice** and **Bill Pay** through your existing bank account.

NON-RECURRING OFFERINGS	RECURRING (SCHEDULED) OFFERINGS
<div>↓</div> <div>Thrivent Choice</div> <div>Fees covered 100% by Thrivent</div> <div>Visit thrivent.com</div> <div>Click 'What We Offer' at top of page</div> <div>Click 'Generosity' near top of page</div> <div>Scroll down to Thrivent Choice, click 'More'</div> <div>Scroll to 'Make a Personal Donation', click</div> <div>Search 'Faith Lutheran Black River Falls'</div> <div>Click 'Make a Personal Donation' for Faith</div> <div>Note: Thrivent redirects to inFaith Community Foundation, a Thrivent microsite</div> <div>Note: a receipt will be sent via email for personal record keeping purposes</div> <div>Options: checking, savings, credit/debit card</div> <div>Note: checking and savings will require your bank routing number and account number</div> <div>Faith Lutheran - Click link to give online</div> <div>Scan QR Code to give online</div>	<div>↓</div> <div>Bill Pay</div> <div>Generally no fees through your existing bank</div> <div>Access your online bank account</div> <div></div> <div>Go to Bill Pay option</div> <div>Note: Normally referred to as Bill Pay within your account options</div> <div>Options: paper check mailed to office</div> <div>Note: Church office address in BRF</div> <div>Faith Lutheran Church</div> <div>N6598 County Road A</div> <div>Black River Falls, WI 54615-5851</div>



FAITH TEACHERS

The Faith teachers will meet Sunday, April 10, from 12:30-2:15 p.m. in the BRF church building.



FESTIVAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Not too long ago, a Christian research organization did a study in which they asked un-churched people what would make them most likely to try attending a church. **74% said that they would be most likely to attend church if a friend invited them.** That's One by One evangelism.

To help assist you in this, Faith church has set aside a Festival of Friendship Sunday for Sunday, April 24. Please remember that day and put it on your calendar. The idea behind a Festival of Friendship is that in having a specific Sunday set apart as a day to invite people to come worship with you, it helps make our witness intentional. That Sunday will be visitor "friendly," and it will help put a specific date on our radar.

So, in the next week or two, write down a list of friends, relatives, associates and neighbors that you don't believe to have a church home. Pray that that Holy Spirit would give you courage to invite one of them to join you for worship on that Festival of Friendship Sunday. Then invite them to come and see.

God bless you as you love others, just as Christ loved you.

FESTIVAL OF FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

APRIL 24, 2022

8 AM (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

9:45 AM (CATARACT)



FROM THE LIBRARY



"The Very First Easter" by Paul L. Maier is in the Bible story section of our church library. The setting of this book is the western mountains where a forest ranger and his wife tell their 10 year old son about the ministry, trial, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The book is beautifully illustrated by Francisco Oraz.

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

To return, put the book/DVD/CD into the basket on the shelf and cross out your entry in the notebook.