

## MEETINGS AND GROUP GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

**Ladies of Faith** – Tuesday, April 9 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

**Ladies Aid** – Thursday, April 11 @ 12:30 p.m. in Cataract

**Child Protection Ad Hoc** – Saturday, April 13 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls

**Youth Group** – Sunday, April 14 @ 2 p.m. in Black River Falls

**Council** – Monday, April 15 @ 6 p.m. in Cataract

**Elders** – Tuesday, April 23 @ 6 p.m. in Cataract

**Voters'** – Sunday, April 28 @ 11 a.m. in Cataract

**Faith Teachers** – Sunday, April 28 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls



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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](http://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](mailto:muellerlaura@hotmail.com) or Pastor Neumann either in person or at the following email address: [pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com). Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.



## The Messenger

APRIL 2019

### Canceled Debts

*Jesus said, "Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" (Luke 7:41-42)*

One day Jesus was invited to dinner at the home of a religious leader named Simon. He was a member of the group called Pharisees that believed their good works made them worthy before God; they didn't believe that they needed to be saved from their sins. There was an unexpected guest at the gathering – a sinful woman, a prostitute. She had come to honor Jesus by pouring expensive perfume and even her own tears on his feet. Simon was upset that Jesus was welcoming the praise of this sinful woman. He thought that if Jesus really knew who she was, he would not even let her touch him. The truth is that Jesus knew that she had lived a sinful life. He also knew that her joyful tears were born of his forgiving love for her.

So Jesus told a story to teach Simon and us a lesson about forgiveness. There were two men who were in debt. One of them owed a money lender about three years' worth of wages. The other owed the same money lender about 50 days of wages. Neither was able to repay, so the money lender graciously canceled both debts. Jesus posed a question: "Now which one of them will love him more?" Simon answered correctly that the one who had the larger debt canceled would have loved the money lender more.

Jesus' short story speaks volumes for our lives. We all have a huge debt that we cannot pay. We cannot make up for all the sinful things we do, not by doing more good things or by doing less bad things. We can't cancel the debt of sin by anything we think, do, or say.

But God saw our desperate need and, loving us so much, he canceled our debt of sin. He did that by having his Son, Jesus, pay it completely for everyone. The price he paid was his death. As the sinless Son of God, he was able to take all of our sins on himself and suffer their punishment for us. By his death, he canceled the debt of our sin. It is the only way to have sin cancelled. Three days after he died, he rose from the dead to prove that his sacrifice counted for all of us.

In a few short weeks we will be celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. What a great time of the year to be reminded that Jesus has canceled our debt of sin and given us new life with him!



# FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES—MARCH 26, 2019

### OPENING DEVOTION

- The meeting opened at 6:30 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in short bible study on “Understanding Law and Gospel—Part 3”.

### ATTENDANCE

- Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Brad Markhardt, Jerry Kirchman, Dave Spaude, Brad Rahmlow

### ELDER’S REPORT

- Two gentlemen—Leo Nelson and Chester Schmid—were received into membership on March 10. A motion was made and seconded to ratify this at our next voters’ meeting. MSC

### PASTOR’S REPORT

- Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of February.
- Discussion was had on the possibility of using Grace in Action in the future. In order that this discussion would continue to receive the council’s attention, it was decided to keep it on Old Business into the future.
- An insert will be put in the bulletin for the support of mission work in Vietnam. Contributions towards the cause will be collected as an offering and one check will be sent from the church.
- It was decided to contact Christian Life Resources—the parasynodical organization scheduled for the cancelled February 24 worship service—and see if they would be able to come for a mission festival in October of 2019.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

- Brad presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$2,919.96 through the end of February. MSC to accept financial report
- It was discussed and decided to print a quarterly update of finances in the bulletin after each quarterly voter’s meetings.
- Jerry Kirchman, Dave Spaude, and Scott Templeton have been elected to sign off on any checks from the church’s Jackson County Bank checking account. MSC

### SPECIAL REPORTS

- Brad Markhardt present an Outreach Committee Report to the council

### OLD BUSINESS

- Brad Rahmlow will be preparing an article explaining the use of offering envelopes for the newsletter
- A survey of summer worship times will be distributed on the first Sunday in April. The choices will be: CAT 9 BRF 10:45 - - - CAT 8 BRF 9:45 - - - CAT 9:45 BRF 8

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord’s Prayer

The next Council Meeting will be held at Cataract, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

### April Birthdays

Lori Spaude	4/2
Xylr Heller	4/4
Sandy Bue	4/10
Evan Markhardt	4/18
Karen Jessie	4/18
Jacob Bue	4/18
Gordy Ritter	4/23
Chris Manske	4/25
Cliff Kremmer	4/27
Penny Nicolai	4/27
Judy Sommers	4/29

### April Anniversaries

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

## 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 “landscape brigade.” We will 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 13.**



Hosted by the Wild Rose Circuit  
at the

Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center  
833 5th Ave - Des Moines, IA 50309

Save \$20 by registering early  
now through April 1, 2019

[www.LWMS.org](http://www.LWMS.org)



# DID YOU KNOW?

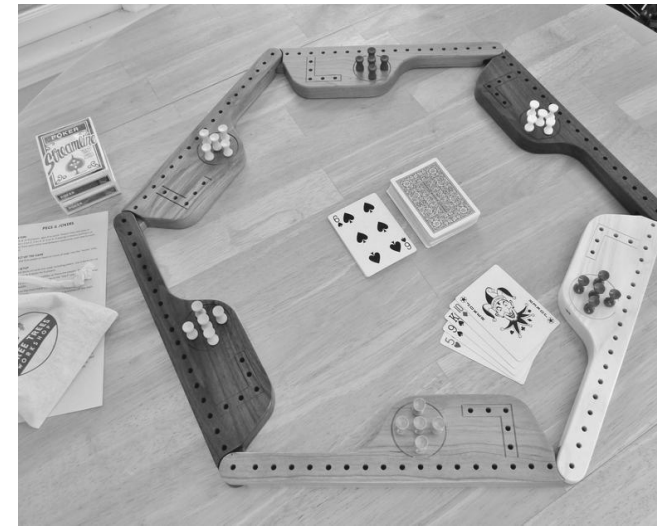
Did you know that Luther High School, our WELS area Lutheran High School in Onalaska, runs a resale shop? It is called Good Steward Resale Shop.

The Good Steward Resale Shop (GSS) was formed in 2002. During its 15 year existence it has given more than three million dollars to Luther High and \$328,670 to other charitable organizations. A large quantity of clothing and housewares has also been given to people in need. What a blessing!

You can help to continue these blessings by volunteering your time at GSS, and by donating your gently used clothing and houseware items.

Volunteers who work a minimum number of hours can nominate students for grants at Luther High or area Lutheran elementary schools. If a volunteer works a sufficient number of hours from June 1- May 31, the student will receive a grant for the following school year. Information and forms for this purpose are available at the store.

If you can help, please contact Good Steward at 608-779-9763 or stop in at the store which is located at 1930 Rose Street in La Crosse.



## 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 13, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the BRF building location. This is a great opportunity for you to invite a friend, relative, or coworker. FiSH is our social group geared toward recreational activities for adults, single or married, younger or older.



## *“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 28.

## **Marriage Enrichment Event**

**Date: Saturday, April 27**

**Time: 4 p.m.**

**Place: Black River Falls**

**Topic: Communication - A**

**Key to a Great Marriage**

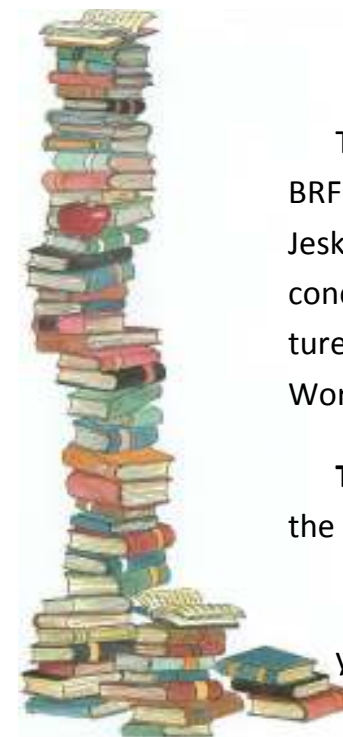


## FROM THE LIBRARY

The Bible Aids section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at the BRF location has the book, *Straight Talk - Answers from God's Word* by Mark Jeske. This book contains 100 questions about daily life, tough issues, spiritual concerns, and personal relations. Pastor Jeske leads the reader straight to Scripture for God's answers. He brings information, love, and guidance from God's Word.

**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.





## HELP WANTED – ROMAN SOLDIERS TO GUARD TOMB OF THE LIVING SAVIOR

SEASONAL PART-TIME!  
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!  
ALL SHIFTS NEEDED!



- ♦ Bible-based church is seeking members willing to spend 3 hours of their time during the Triduum (Latin for 3 days) of Holy Week in God's great outdoors.
- ♦ Stylish uniforms will be provided.
- ♦ Compensation is fellowship with other church members, snacks, a "movie star-like" personification, and other blessings that come with sharing your Savior!
- ♦ Taking of a traditional Roman name is optional. (e.g. Maximus or Flavia – have some fun – do a Google search)
- ♦ Equal opportunity employment - all ages and genders are welcome.
- ♦ Successful applicants will be motivated by God's undeserved love and simply sign up on the Living Tomb Shift Sign-up Sheet in the gathering area in each of our worship locations. Sign-up early for the "best" shifts!

## HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14 – 8:00 A.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)**

– 9:45 A.M. (CATARACT)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 18 – 4:30 P.M. (CATARACT)**

– 6:30 P.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

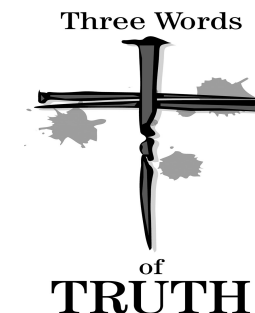
**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19 – 4:30 P.M. (CATARACT)**

– 6:30 P.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21 – 8:00 A.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)**

– 9:45 A.M. (CATARACT)

Midweek Lenten services continue this month as we follow the theme: Three Words of Truth! Services will be held Wednesday – April 3 & 10 – at 4:30 p.m. in Cataract and 6:30 p.m. in Black River Falls. A simple supper is served at both locations at 5:30 p.m.



Worship  
at the  
Cross

### JESUS CARES WORSHIP AT THE CROSS

Our last Jesus Cares Worship at the Cross service was in November, but we would like to start having them again. The Worship at the Cross program is a simplified service that follows a format appropriate for people with a cognitive disability, including people with forms of dementia. Pictures and symbols lead participants through the parts of the service. These services provide individuals with special needs the opportunity to hear God's Word, participate in activities and engage in fellowship with family members, volunteers and community members.

In order to reach and invite as many of our local group homes to our service as possible, we could use your help. If this is something you would be able to help with, please talk to Pastor Neumann. We want to personally visit each group home and see if there is a day and time that works best, as well as providing them with information on what we will do.



### LIVE TOMB SET-UP

We can use some help setting-up the live tomb on **Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m.** No experience necessary. Feel free to bring your drill driver and staple gun.



The Ladies of Faith have added another quilting day to their schedule. It will be on Saturday, **April 13th at 9 am.** All ladies are welcome (whether you have years or no years of sewing experience). A potluck meal will be served at noon .

