

- ⇒ Communion – Pastor will be distributing bread and wine without gloves after washing in BRF and sanitizing in Cataract. Ushers will bring up those to be communed in groups of 6 or 8 depending on location, maximizing available positions as convenient.
- ⇒ Ushering – ushers will resume the practice of dismissing from front of church to back.
- ⇒ Bulletin format – hymns and psalm will be removed from bulletin to save paper and printing costs (available on projector and/or hymnals).

- ◆ Pastor reminded Council of the Member Assistance Program and potential 2022 budget line item.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- ◆ Tyler presented financial reports for the months of May (net loss of \$2,841.45) and June (net loss of \$3,014.69). MSC to accept financial reports for May and June, 2021.

SPECIAL REPORTS

- ◆ Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt
- ◆ Concert in the Park will be the 29th of June at 7pm at Lunda Park in BRF
- ◆ Bible Soccer Camp will be held August 9-11
- Property Committee Report
- Live Stream Project @ BRF campus is complete. Total spending of \$6,399.84.

OLD BUSINESS

- ◆ Jubilee Debt Reduction Offering - \$19,622.00 has been received through June, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer

*Congregational Meeting will be held July 25th in BRF at 11am.

*Council Meeting will be held August 16th in Cataract at 6pm.

Recorded by Tyler Jessie

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tyler presented a financial report showing that the congregation is \$14,096.23 behind budget through the first half of the year. This figure does not take into account the \$19,622 that has been collected towards the Jubilee Debt Reduction. MSC to accept financial report through Q2, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

The Lord has blessed the efforts of the Jubilee Debt Reduction program with \$19,622 collected through the end of June. Continue to prayerfully consider the blessings the Lord has given you.

* The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer

* The next Quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held in CAT October 31st at 11:15am.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie



August 2021

Dress yourself with...Kindness

They often embarrassed their mother by the way they acted in public. It seemed to her that her sons were always arguing.

At the supermarket, the brothers would fight about which cereal she should buy. When they were home they could never agree which movie to watch. Sometimes she doubted that her two boys would ever survive their childhood together.

While they often bickered, the brothers were also fiercely loyal to each other. If another child from the neighborhood made fun of one of them, the other was sure to come to his defense. It baffled their mother!

How could they quarrel so, yet a short time later seek to protect their would-be rival? Blood truly must be thicker than water!

This scenario is a reality for many of us. Sibling rivalry, it seems, is universal. And for the most part, defense of one's own family is equally universal. Playground conversations usually prove this true.

God has another scenario he wants us to follow. He encourages us in the Bible to treat all people as though they were family. "Make every effort to add to your faith ... brotherly kindness" (2 Peter 1:5,7).

There are dozens of things that make each of us different from everyone else in the world. They include



where we live, the color of our eyes, our talents, the size of our paycheck, and so on.

Even though we enjoy associating with people who are like us, God wants us to treat everyone the way we would treat an idolized brother or sweet sister. After all, God's love prompted him to send his Son, so that everyone who believes in him has life in his name.

Every person who is made a child of God through his Word and the water of baptism also becomes our brother or sister in Christ. They are family. That's a valuable thing to think about when it comes to our church and our fellow members. Has one of them done something

that frustrated or hurt you? Respond with kindness, not bitterness. Speak to them in love about it. Allow apologies to be given and forgiveness to be granted.

Likewise, consider that when it comes to our presence in worship. We want to be with family. All of us benefit from the presence of one another in worship. Kindness is shown when we arrange our schedules so we can build one another up.

May we never take this family for granted, and may we do all we can to show kindness to one another. In doing so, we will grow as a family of believers.

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 Pastor Neumann either in person or at the following email address: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com. Or send information to Laura Mueller at muellerlaura@hotmail.com. The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.

YOU ARE INVITED TO BIBLE SOCCER CAMP

- ⇒ Faith Lutheran Church will once again have Bible Soccer Camp this summer. It will be held Monday to Wednesday, August 9 – August 11, in Black River Falls (*come each day or some of the days*).
- ⇒ The Bible Soccer Camp is for children ages 4-13.
- ⇒ The Bible Soccer Camp will be held from 9 a.m.– 12 p.m. each day.
- ⇒ There is no cost for this Bible Soccer Camp. Each child will receive a t-shirt and water bottle.
- ⇒ The Bible Soccer Camp activities will include physical training and Bible studies.
- ⇒ Each child should have appropriate footwear.
- ⇒ There will be Bible time, snack time, craft time, and music time.
- ⇒ The Bible Soccer Camp registration and waiver can be found online at www.faithwels.com or in the gathering area. Questions? Call 284-0772.



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council SUMMARY June 28th, 2021

OPENING: The meeting opened at 6:00 pm by watching the second section of the “God’s People Gather” roundtable discussion distributed by synod.

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Neumann, Dave Spaude, Rick Treptow, Tyler Jessie, Brad Markhardt, Kirk Goetzka

AGENDA REVIEW: Church service flow and communion distribution added to New Business – will be discussed in Pastor’s Report as well. Accepted as edited. Moved Seconded Confirmed (MSC)

ELDER’S REPORT

- ♦ Heidi Geisler (Wyatt, Bryce, Olivia, Adriana, Britta) was received into membership by profession of faith on May 30
- ♦ Noah Neumann was received into communicant membership through confirmation on June 6.
- ♦ Elders are organizing a “God’s People Gather” Sunday for the first Sunday in December. The point of this special service is to encourage the entire congregation to resume gathering in person.

PASTOR’S REPORT

- ♦ Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of May.
- ♦ Pastor presented bible class titles/themes for the month of August.
- ♦ Pastor will be restarting visits to Jackson Correctional on July 6th
- ♦ Council agreed to pay for Youth Group meal in late July (Dells trip).
- ♦ Church service procedures: flow, communion, ushering, etc.
 - ⇒ Offering – plates will once again be passed by ushers and congregation members.

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Faith Lutheran Church Congregational Mtg. Summary July 25, 2021

OPENING: The meeting opened at 11:15 pm with Pastor Baerbock leading us in a short prayer.

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Ken Deiner, Dave Spaude, Grady Severson, Tyler Jessie, Gale Jessie, Dave Spaude, Pastor Baerbock, Mark Mueller, Scott Templeton

ELDER’S REPORT

- ♦ Ratify the acceptance of Heidi Geisler (Wyatt, Bryce, Olivia, Adriana, Britta) into membership. MSC
- ♦ Ratify the transfer out of Steven Kirsch to St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Middleton, WI. MSC
- ♦ Ratify the transfer out of Eric Markhardt to Living Hope Lutheran Church in Peoria, Ill. MSC
- ♦ Noah Neumann accepted into communicant membership after his confirmation. MSC

PASTOR’S REPORT

Pastor presented a statistical report for the second quarter of the year.

SPECIAL REPORTS

- ♦ **Outreach Committee** – The congregation reviewed the outreach committee report supplied by Brad Markhardt
- ♦ **Property Committee** - The live streaming equipment has been totally installed and is working well. The total cost of the project was \$6300. There is also a furnace gas leak that needs to be addressed before the winter heating season in the BRF location.
- ♦ **Jesus Cares Ministry** – This ministry is being revitalized. The first activity they will be undertaking is spreading informational DVDs to group homes.

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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

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

Anniversaries

Ron & Karen Baerbock	8/1
Cody & Heidi Heller	8/1
Scott & Nancy Templeton	8/6
Dave & Lori Spaude	8/7
David & Kari Kellen	8/12
Gerhart & Mary Sasman	8/15
Cliff & Cheryl Kremmer	8/16
Warren & Joni Timm	8/18
Richard & Rita Selin	8/25
Richard & Lisa Treptow	8/27

Birthdays

Raymond Sommers	8/1
Leah Southwood	8/11
Nina Severson	8/16
Jessica Moore	8/25
Alisha Southwood	8/25
Alex Huggett	8/26
Kari Kellen	8/29

Luther's Happy Home

In the Catholic Church monks, nuns, and priests are not allowed to marry. When Martin Luther entered the monastery, he had to take a pledge that he would never marry. But when he learned to know the teachings of the Bible, he saw that marriage was an honorable and God-pleasing thing. Even for people who served the church. Therefore he saw that he was not obligated to keep his promise because his promise went against what God's Word said. Not only that, but Luther was anxious to show the world what a great blessing of God a Christian home is. He urged all pastors to marry and have families. He himself got married and started a home of his own.

God gave Luther a good Christian wife in Catherine von Bora. She had been a nun, but had come to the knowledge of the truth through Luther's writings. She left her convent (a house for nuns) and in 1525 Luther married her. His father and mother were very happy when they learned of their son's marriage. The Elector gave them the cloister in Wittenberg, in which Luther had been living, to be their home. Six children were born to Catherine and Luther. One, Elizabeth, died before she was a year old. The oldest child was Hans, or John. The two other boys were Martin and Paul. The second daughter was Magdalene; and the youngest, Margaret.

Not only did Elizabeth die young, but so did Magdalene. Her early death brought great sorrow into Luther's home and heart. She had been a favorite of everyone. She died when she was thirteen years old. As Luther knelt at her sickbed, he prayed, "I love her so dearly, but since it is thy will, dear God, to call her away from here, I willingly let her go so that she may be with thee." Magdalene herself was ready to go to her Savior.

Luther had a very happy and lovely home life. He and his wife brought up their children in the fear of God. Luther loved to be with his children. He would play with them, tell them stories, hear their lessons, and sing with them. There were often friends and guests in the home, and Luther always supported relatives and poor students and treated them as members of the family. In the evening he would gather everybody around him; then all would sing together, or he would tell them interesting things about God's Word and about his experiences. God's Word was used every day in Luther's home. The children had to recite the Catechism, say their prayers, and read aloud from the Bible.

Luther made Christmas a time of joyful celebration. He showed the members of his church how to observe this festival in a happy and God-pleasing manner. His hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" puts everybody in the right Christmas spirit. We are

told that the words and melody of this lovely Christmas hymn came to him while he was thinking about his Christmas sermon and was at the same time rocking the cradle in which one of his babies was lying. It is also said that he was the first to bring a fir tree into the house at Christmas and decorate it with fruits, nuts and lights.

When Luther was away from home, he wrote often to his wife and also to his children. Here is a beautiful letter he wrote to Hans, when Hans was still a little boy:

Grace and peace in Christ, dear little son. I am glad to hear that you are studying and saying your prayers. Continue to do so, my son, and when I come home, I will bring you a pretty present.

I know a lovely, pleasant garden where many children are. They wear golden jackets, and gather nice apples under the trees, and pears and cherries, and purple plums and yellow plums, and sing, and run, and jump, and are happy, and have pretty little ponies with golden reins and silver saddles. I asked the man who owned the garden who these children were.

He said, "They are the children who say their prayers and study and are good." Then said I, "Dear man, I also have a son, whose name is Hans Luther; may he come into the garden and eat the sweet apples and pears and ride a fine pony and play with these children?"

Then the man said, "If he says his prayers and is good, he may come into the garden, and Phil and Justy [two of Hans' friends] too; and when they all come, they shall have whistles and drums and fifes and shall play and shoot little crossbows." Then he showed me a fine, large lawn in the garden for playing, where hung real golden whistles and fine silver crossbows. But it was yet early and the children had not finished eating, and I could not wait to see them play.

So I said to the man, "My dear sir, I must go and write at once to my dear little Hans about all this, so that he will say his prayers and study and be good, so that he may come into the garden. But he has an Aunt Lena, whom you must allow him to bring with him." The man answered, "Yes, do write to him at once."

So, dear little Hans, study and say your prayers and tell Phil and Justy to say their prayers and study too, so that you may all come into the garden together. God bless you! Give my greetings and kiss to Aunt Lena. The year 1530. Your loving father, Martin Luther.



BIBLE SOCCER CAMP NEEDS

Snacks: Bible Soccer Camp is this month and we are in need of drinks and snacks. If you would be willing to make or bring some snacks for the week of August 9-11, please bring them in Sunday, August 1st, August 8th, or during the week of Bible Camp.

Soccer Balls: Would you happen to have a soccer ball(s) lying around your house? If you do, would you be willing to let Faith borrow it/them during Bible Soccer Camp. If this is possible, please bring them to church either August 1st or August 8th. Thank you.



ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS THIS MONTH

- Elders Meeting
Thursday—August 5 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls
- Canvass
Saturday—August 7 @ 9-11 a.m. & 2-4 p.m. & Sunday – August 8 @ 2-4 p.m. in Black River Falls
- Bible Soccer Camp
Monday to Wednesday—August 9-11 @ 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. in Black River Falls
- Landscape Brigade
Saturday—August 14 @ 8 a.m. in Black River Falls
- Child Protection Ad Hoc Meeting
Saturday—August 14 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls
- FiSH
Saturday—August 14 @ 5 p.m.
- Council Meeting
Monday—August 16 @ 6 p.m. in Cataract
- Outreach Meeting
Tuesday—August 17 @ 5:30 p.m. in Black River Falls
- Youth Group
Sunday—August 29 @ 2 p.m. in Black River Falls

POTLUCK

A potluck will be held at our Black River Falls location on Sunday, August 8—after Bible Class has ended. This will be a true potluck, so you are asked to bring 1 or 2 dishes to pass (main dishes, casseroles, pasta salads, desserts, breads, jello, etc.). This potluck will provide a meal for our two Martin Luther College students who are here helping us with our Bible Soccer Camp as well as give us opportunity to visit with them as a congregation.

WHEN WILL SERVICE TIME CHANGE AGAIN

Have you been wondering, “When will the service times change again?” It’s still a month away. However, so that this information can be cemented in our minds, our service times will change on Sunday, September 12. On that Sunday, our worship , Bible class, and Sunday School schedule will be as follows:

- 8 am Worship in Black River Falls
- 9:15 am Bible Class and Sunday School in Black River Falls
- 9:45 am Worship in Cataract
- 11 am Bible Class in Cataract



NO TALK, NO KNOCK, NO TRAINING

In August, prior to our Bible Soccer Camp, our congregation will hang 1,000 postcards—inviting our community to the Bible Soccer Camp. Will you help? You will not be asked to talk to anyone, knock on any doors, or go through any training. All you need to be able to do is walk from door to door and hang postcards on the door. How awesome it would be to have a large number of our members in their Faith T-shirts walking around our community. The days and times of the canvass will be:

- 9-11am—Saturday, August 7
- 2-4 pm—Saturday, August 7
- 2-4 pm—Sunday, August 8

Choose one day and time, or come for more. We will plan to canvass until 4 pm Sunday or until we are out of postcards.

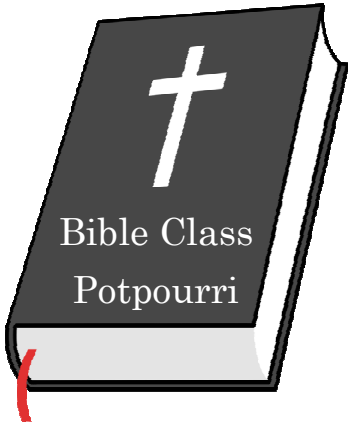


AUGUST BIBLE STUDY

Potpourri is defined as “a mixture of things.”

Starting in August, we will have a potpourri of Bible Classes after our late worship service in Black River Falls. The studies will last anywhere between 30-60 minutes. We’ll be done by noon for sure. These five Bible Studies will be:

- August 1 – *Psalm 73 – Why Do the Wicked Prosper While the Godly Suffer?*
- August 8 – *The Biblical Concept of Hell*
- August 15 – *The Biblical Concept of Heaven*
- August 22 – *The Great “I Am”*
- August 29 – *Hey, God, What About Angels?*



LIBRARY CORNER

In the devotions section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at our BRF location, you will find two copies of the prayer book, He Hears My Voice. This book is a collection of 26 weeks of daily prayers, prayers for special occasions and holidays, and prayers for special needs. These prayers were taken from the periodical, Meditations.

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



JUBILEE DEBT REDUCTION OFFERING

BELOW – AT – BEYOND

When you think about the stewardship of giving, have you ever stopped to consider the fact that we are capable of giving at three different levels? One could say that we can give below our ability, according to our ability, or even beyond our ability. That truth might stir up some questions: What does our checkbook or credit card statement reveal about our ability to give? Where do our personal priorities lie? Are we inclined to give with a joy-filled heart of faith? Do we have a tendency to stockpile treasures on earth because we doubt God's ability to provide?

Well, God encourages our trust and stills our fears in 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, *"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."* He reassures us that he knows our needs. Out of pure grace, he gives us even more than we need. He is generous beyond our ability to comprehend. Do you ever doubt that? If so, begin listing your blessings one-by-one [I encourage you to start doing this]. How long will it take before you reach the end of the list? Odds are you will tire of making the list long before you ever reach the end of the list!

Now, consider that list – whether you actually started or just thought about it. Consider the #1 blessing on that list. It's Jesus and the forgiveness of sin that he won with his life, death and resurrection. Talk about being generous beyond belief! God didn't spare his own Son! God gave him up for us all! Jesus willingly went to the cross! Forgiveness has been won! Peace with God is ours through faith in Jesus! Heaven is our home! We have been made rich in every way, indeed! Now we can be generous on every occasion.

So, where are we at with our giving? Below, at, or even beyond ability? In Christ, may you find great joy in giving!

Praise
and give thanks to *the*
Lord

**Through July 18, God's
people here at Faith have
offered \$23,622 towards
our goal of \$100,000 for
our Jubilee Debt
Reduction Offering**



July 2021 CAMM Monthly Newsletter



Freedom! Seems like that has been on the minds of Americans as we have celebrated our country's birthday and the freedom as citizens we have by service offered from many on the USA's behalf. However, the freedom we have in Christ is freedom from our greatest problem which is sin. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 22b-24). CAMM has the joy to share this freedom with the people of Malawi and Zambia who we serve with our Christ centered healthcare made possible by our God and the supporters through their gifts, donations, love and prayers.

The CAMM July 2021 Monthly Letter was written by Beth Evans, our nurse in charge at the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi. What a privilege and joy to hear how God's Word is able to be shared and proclaimed from opportunities at our CAMM clinics. The letter can be found [HERE](#) in PDF form and [HERE](#) in a Word document. Please share the letter with your circuit congregations and you feel free to pass along any information in this cover letter you feel they may like to know. I received an email from Beth recently stating how they had run out of pill bottles "FYI, we received 2 nice boxes of pill bottles today, after having been completely out for 2 days. (We used up what was out at Suzi and Mwalaulomwe and I cleaned out some spice bottles I had so we managed) Whew!". Wow how great a God we have to deliver the pill bottles just as they needed them and thanks to all those who have been willing to do all that is required to send a box (or two) of them to either Malawi or Zambia. Clearly they are used daily and very much needed and appreciated. So at this time, both fields can still use them so if you are interested in doing this project, please do so. If you or any of your circuit churches need the information, don't hesitate to contact me regarding it.

Another opportunity to learn about CAMM was presented when Gary and Beth Evans were speakers in the LWMS 2021 Convention held last month virtually. Go to the LWMS website at www.lwms.org and find the 58th Annual Convention tab and then Event Schedule and their presentation can be found under Thursday, June 24 World Mission Presentation. Great overview of both CAMM fields and "see it" with your own eyes!!

Please continue to visit our CAMM website at www.camm.us or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/camm.wels. On behalf of the CAMM Stateside Committee and field staff, I thank you for your continued service as a Contact Woman (CW) and supporter, your prayers, your gifts and love for the Christ centered healthcare offered through CAMM. To God be the glory for this mission of love.

In Christ's service,

Cheryl Valus