

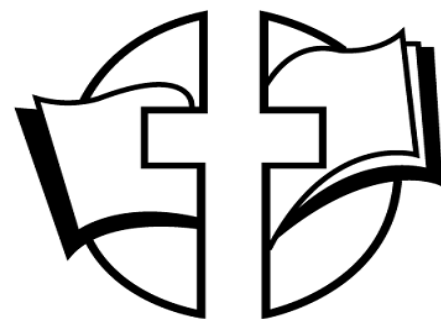


AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Raymond Sommers	8/1
Carmon Gilberston	8/10
Leah Southwood	8/11
Nina Severson	8/16
Jessica Moore	8/25
Alisha Southwood	8/25
Alex Huggett	8/26
Kari Kellen	8/29
Jennifer Bedell	8/31

MEETINGS AND GROUP GATHERINGS

- Congregational* – Sunday, August 2 @ 11:15 a.m. in Cataract
- Child Protection Ad Hoc* – Saturday, August 8 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls
- Outreach* – Sunday, August 9 @ 11 a.m. in Black River Falls
- Youth Group* – Sunday, August 9 @ 2 p.m. in Black River Falls
- Elders* – Tuesday, August 11 @ 6 pm in Cataract
- Faith Teachers* – Sunday, August 16 @ 11 a.m. in Black River Falls
- Council* – Tuesday, August 18 @ 6 p.m. in Cataract
- Worship Planning* – Wednesday, August 19 at 9 a.m. in Black River Falls



The Messenger

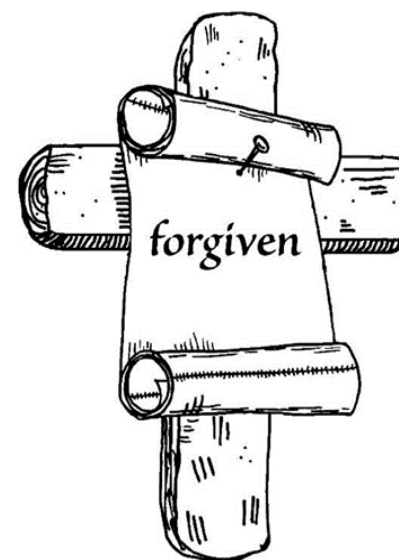
August 2020

Can God take my guilt away?

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible. This month's favorite Bible verse is: 2 Corinthians 5:21

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

“I wish I could take it all away,” Mom whispered to her suffering five-year-old son. He had the flu for a couple of days now, and Mom’s heart was broken. As he lay in his bed suffering from the chills and a fever, there wasn’t much Mom could do except give him some children’s flu medicine and just be there for him. Mom felt helpless and wished she could take it all away from him. She even wished she could have the flu instead of her son.



you did to end a close relationship with a friend. Maybe you said something to a family member that you wish you could take back. Maybe it was something that only you know about, but it haunts you each day.

When children are sick, the love of Mom and Dad really starts to shine through. In a heartbeat, parents go to extra lengths to make sure their kids are feeling as comfortable as possible. If you’re a parent, you’ve been there. You make sure their pillow is extra fluffy. You bring their favorite juice box. You provide their favorite movie to watch. And any time you hear them call, you quickly respond with, “What can I do for

you?” The love of Mom and Dad goes so far that if they could take the sickness away, even become sick instead of their child, they would. But they can’t, and it hurts.

Has there ever been a time when you wished you could take it all away? Not just a sickness of a child, but something you did that you really regret? Maybe it was something

It’s at moments like these that God’s love really starts to shine through. He knows your sin, your guilt, your regrets. But he doesn’t just wish he could take them away. He did take them away. He forgave them all! He took your sin and guilt away when he put them on his only Son, Jesus. He loves you so much that he had Jesus die for your sin so that you wouldn’t have to. God forgave your guilt and now considers you right with him because of what Jesus did for you.

Wish your guilt and regrets could be taken away? They were. In their place, he gives you forgiveness and eternal life. Now that’s a love that shines through!



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N6774 Acorn Ave.
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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.

AUGUST CHANGES

Dear members of Faith Lutheran Church,

When we resumed our worship services about two months ago, we knew there would be a lot of questions. What is the best way to worship? How much singing should we do? What will communion look like? What is the best way to demonstrate our trust that God will take care of us and yet use the wisdom he has given us? How long will this last? Will church ever be the same again? Is this still the best way to do things? How can we continue to serve those who don't feel comfortable gathering for worship just yet? How can we help in the fight against Satan, who wants to use this whole situation to pull people away from regular worship? These are just a few of the questions.

Yet, in the middle of all these questions, we remember that there is one thing that is certain - Jesus Christ. God's Word reminds us, "**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever**" (Hebrews 13:8). Just think of the significance that has on our situation. It means that our Savior is still in control. It means he still guides and guards us with his love. It means that the forgiveness of sins - which is our greatest need - is still in rich supply. It means that he will continue to give leaders within our congregation the wisdom and strength to make wise and prudent decisions. It means that he will continue to fill Christian brothers and sisters with patience and love as we deal with one another. It means that all of his promises are true, including this: he will continue to work all things for the good of those who love him.

It was with that confidence that we resumed worship and implemented the safeguards we did. It is also with that confidence that we come to you with a few changes for our worship this coming August. These changes come after discussion at the church council meeting in July. At this meeting, the church council reevaluated our worship and ministry with help from a document from our WELS synodical leadership.

ANOTHER WORSHIP SERVICE ADDED

Since it would seem that COVID-19 has a greater chance to spread in larger gatherings of people in enclosed spaces, the church council has decided to add another service to keep individual services to a smaller size. This service will be held on Mondays during the month of August. The service will be at 6:30 pm and will be held at our Black River Falls location. We will continue having our Sunday services at 8 am in Cataract and 9:45 am in Black River Falls.

LESS SINGING

Studies show that different activities release different amounts of respiratory particles into the air. For example, breathing and talking release less particles while coughing, sneezing and singing release more. Since this is the case, and since studies show that COVID-19 seems to spread most easily through these particles, the church council has decided to scale back on the amount of singing done in worship. During the month of August, all liturgy portions of the services will be spoken and fewer hymns and hymn verses will be sung.

MASKS

On Thursday, July 30, Gov. Evers issued a mandate that all people who gather inside of a building are required to wear masks. Since God tells us to submit ourselves to the governing authorities, we will do that here at Faith as well. According to the mandate, Pastor will be able to remove his mask during the worship service.

CONTINUING

With these changes, we also take time to repeat these things that we continue to do...

- ⇒ Responsible distancing will be practiced within the sanctuary and building. This means certain rows and portions of rows will be blocked off. Family units may sit together. Please use ushers to help you find a place to sit.
- ⇒ The entire service will be printed in the bulletin so that no hymnals will have to be used. We would ask that you pick up your own bulletin and that you take your bulletin home with you.
- ⇒ Communion will continue the pattern we have followed since resuming worship.
- ⇒ Fellowshiping with one another is one of the blessings we have as fellow believers. However, at this time it would seem wise and prudent to avoid before and after service fellowship. Upon arrival, please avoid lingering in the gathering area and find a place to sit in the church sanctuary. Once service has ended and you are ushered out (starting



YOU ARE INVITED TO BIBLE SOCCER CAMP

The Bible Soccer Camp will be held August 3 - August 5 at Faith Lutheran Church 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.

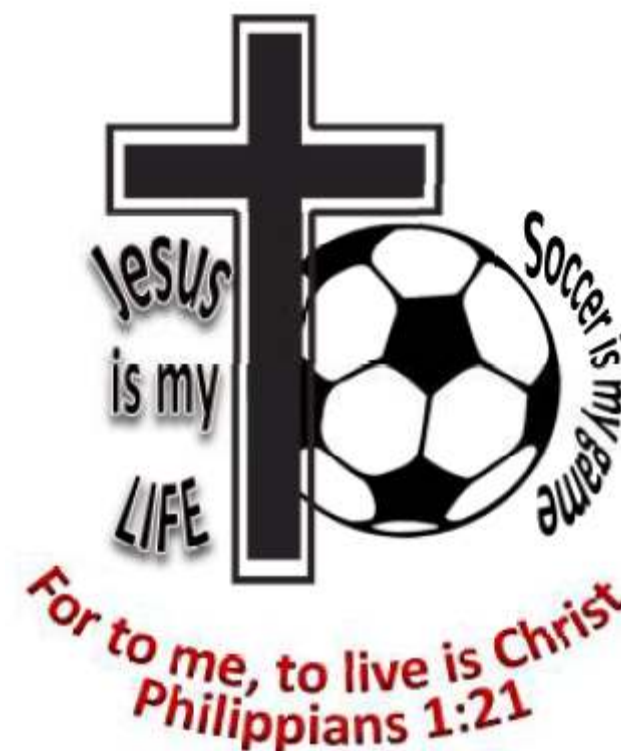
The Bible Soccer Camp activities will include physical training and Bible studies. Each child should have appropriate footwear. There will also be a snack time, craft time, and music time.

Due to COVID-19, each child is asked to bring their own water bottle. We will practice social distancing as best we can. We ask that each family consider whether they feel comfortable sending their child(ren) or not. We also ask that if your children are sick, please do not send them.

The Bible Soccer Camp registration can be done online at www.faithwels.com or by filling out a registration sheet found in the gathering area. Questions? Call 284-0772.



THIS YEAR'S THEME IS...





It has been a strange, and difficult few months for both our staff and patients in Malawi, as well as for the leadership of our team in the U.S. Yet, God continues to show his love and protection for us through the struggles the Lutheran Mobile Clinic has been facing. *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.” (Ps 46:1)*

The pandemic continues to affect lives and circumstances on both sides of the Atlantic. It is spreading quickly now in Malawi, to 1742 cases and 19 deaths in early July. The cases have been imported from people returning from countries such as South Africa, and are also being transmitted locally throughout mainly urban areas. Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe has been closed to commercial air traffic. The relatively low death rate is most probably due to the young average age of the population (19 years) and the lifestyle of people being mainly out of doors. We are thankful that all of our staff has remained well and are following preventive measures such as staying at home, washing hands, wearing masks and social distancing.

God has blessed Malawi with a fair and peaceful presidential electoral process, where Lazarus Chakwera, a former pastor, defeated the incumbent Peter Mutharika in a rerun election June 23rd by winning 59% of the vote. He was inaugurated on Malawian Independence Day in a scaled down ceremony with social distancing and mask-wearing following the COVID19 guidelines. He will have a five-year term as president of a nation of 18 million people. We pray for strong leadership and God’s guidance in a time of a poor economy, corruption in government and a spreading pandemic.

Gary and I have been in Wisconsin since April 1 due to the start of coronavirus and having to close the mobile clinic operation to safeguard both our staff and our patients in the villages. We have had regular communication with our staff in Malawi and Zambia, have been watching the development of cases in both countries, and are learning all we can about this virus, treatment of complications, and how to prevent its transmission. I am working to find out where to obtain PPE in Malawi and stateside, and making plans to be well supplied when we restart our work. We will be meeting with the CAMM committee and speaking with clinic staff this month to make decisions regarding the safe reopening of the clinics. We feel the virus will be in Malawi for some time, but know that our brothers and sisters in Christ have had to suffer from other illnesses and conditions without our medical care so we are eager to help them again. Pray that flights resume and we will be able to continue our work in Malawi soon.

On another note, we just want to praise God for what is now the 50th anniversary of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi. The medical work was started in 1970 near Salima, close to Lake Malawi. It’s amazing how the Lord has used this clinic, providing countless Malawian children with vaccines and nutritional support, pregnant women with antenatal care, the sick with needed healthcare and medicine, and they all hear of Jesus, their Savior. God has prompted many of you to give of your time, finances and prayers to sustain this medical mission. Thank you so very much!

Your sister in Christ,

Beth Evans – Nurse in Charge

from the rear of church), please make your way to your vehicle. If you would like to visit, the open air of the parking lot would be a good place to do this.

- ⇒ Doors will be propped open to facilitate your entrance and exit.
- ⇒ The offering plates will not be passed. They will be left in the back of church/gathering area.
- ⇒ Door handles, chairs, and areas that are commonly touched will be disinfected before each service.
- ⇒ Hand sanitizer will be available.
- ⇒ Finally, we also leave you with this loving reminder. If you are ill, please do not leave your home. We would give that advice at any time. If there is a health emergency, Pastor will, as always, serve you to the best of his ability by coming to your home or the hospital, if allowed.

We recognize that when the church council meets in August to once again reevaluate our worship and service, some of these things may again change. That’s why we take such great comfort in knowing our Savior never changes.

Please continue to watch newsletters and bulletins for more information. Please call the church office (715-284-0772) with questions or comments. And please read the article that follows at the bottom of this page, it is take from the document provided by our WELS synodical leadership.

In Christ,

Pastor Neumann

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary July 13, 2020

ATTENDANCE

- ⇒ Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Dave Spaude, Kirk Geotzka, Rick Treptow, Scott Templeton, Brad Markhardt

CALL TO ORDER

- ⇒ The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a *Precious to the Flock* Bible Study

ELDER’S REPORT

- ⇒ Elders will be contacting single women and women whose husbands are not members before the next congregational meeting so that their voices can be heard / address any issues they feel are important.
- ⇒ There will be a survey sent out to all members concerning what they would like the future of bible classes to look like.

PASTOR’S REPORT

- ⇒ Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of June
- ⇒ Any information to be ratified and the financial reports will be made available the Sunday before the congregational meeting
- ⇒ Council reviewed the history of the Printz Creek Cemetery. Anybody having a question on the cemetery can contact Dale Jessie for more information.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- ⇒ Scott presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$31,594.60 through the end of June. Moved, Seconded, Confirmed (MSC) to accept financial report for June, 2020

SPECIAL REPORTS

Outreach Committee

- ⇒ Brad Markhardt reviewed the most important points that came from the last outreach committee meeting
- ⇒ The bible soccer camp will be held August 3 – 5. Registration and waiver forms are available now at the churches and online.
- ⇒ The concert in the park has been canceled this year due to concerns from Covid 19

Property Committee

- ⇒ The electronics of the sound system have been scheduled to be upgraded at a cost of \$1600

OLD BUSINESS

- ⇒ Council gave pastor the permission to spend a maximum of \$500 purchase one copy of everything necessary to make an adequate decision on whether or not to purchase the new style hymnal that is going to be released. MSC

NEW BUSINESS

- ⇒ Council reviewed the state of our church services during this pandemic. We will continue to sanitize and be cautious while distributing the Lord’s Communion and practice social distancing. We discussed the possibility of bringing back another evening service during the week to be able to keep individual services to a smaller size. The decision was made to start offering a Monday night service during the month of August. The service time will start at 6:30. To further keep the safety of everyone in mind pastor will cut more singing from the services to help reduce the spread of air born particles. Pastor will wear a mask at the beginning and end of the services to encourage anybody who would like to wear a mask during the service. Council will continue to review best practices for our services monthly.

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

The next Council Meeting will be held in Cataract, August 18th at 6pm.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

We will resume our study of the book, “Will the Real Jesus please stand up? 12 False Christs” on Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 pm in Black River Falls. We began this study last year in August and had such great discussion that we were not able to finish it. We will seek to finish it this year.

PLEASE NOTE: if you were not able to attend last year, but are able to this year and would like a book, please sign-up on the white table in the gathering area. You will not feel lost as we jump back into this book. Each chapter is unique unto itself.



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 13. On that Sunday, our worship 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



ELDERS BIBLE CLASS SURVEY

Our loving Savior said it so simply: “Blessed...are they who hear the word of God” (Luke 11:28). He didn’t say it just once either: “Whoever belongs to God hears what God says” (John 8:47). It should come as no surprise, then, that the Holy Spirit led the apostles to write the same thing: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (Colossians 3:16).

Realizing these truths, Christians will want worship and Bible study to be a priority in their lives. For this reason, the church council wants to encourage Bible study participation among the members of Faith Lutheran Church, and the first step will be to get feedback on our current Bible Study options here at Faith. Please watch for a survey in your email box or mailbox at the beginning of August.

August Anniversaries

Ron + Karen Baerbock	8/1
Scott + Nancy Templeton	8/6
Dave + Lori Spaude	8/7
Dave + Kari Kellen	8/12
Gerhart + Mary Sasman	8/15
Cliff + Cheryl Kremmer	8/16
Warren + Joni Timm	8/18
Richard + Rita Selin	8/25
Ralph + Karin Jandt	8/26
Richard + Lisa Treptow	8/27

CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS’ MEETING

Sunday, August 2 at 11:15 am. The meeting will be held in Cataract.