

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

Elders Meeting – Monday, February 4 @ 6:30 p.m. in Black River Falls

Church Council – Monday, February 11 @ 6 p.m. in Cataract

Faith Teachers – Sunday, February 24 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Anniversary

Kirk + Laura Goetzka 2/14

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

Birthdays

| | |
|------------------|------|
| Matt Anderson | 2/4 |
| Maggie Jessie | 2/5 |
| Thomas Danielson | 2/6 |
| Jacob Markhardt | 2/6 |
| Brad Markhardt | 2/7 |
| Tucker Fatla | 2/8 |
| Zachary Mueller | 2/15 |
| Dave Kellen | 2/17 |
| Greg Fatla | 2/19 |
| Steve Kirsch | 2/21 |
| Jerry Kirchman | 2/23 |
| Cody Heller | 2/25 |
| Keagen Jessie | 2/24 |
| Pam Johnson | 2/25 |

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.



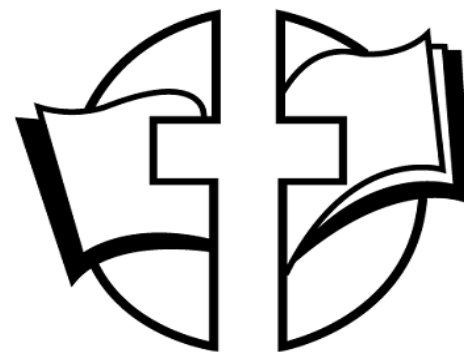
N6598 County Highway A
Black River Falls, WI 54615
(mailing address)

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, please contact either 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.



The Messenger

January 2019

A FATHER'S LOVE

Jesus said, "The son got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him" (Luke 15:20).

He was homeless, smelly, and almost starving to death. But the worst thing was that he knew it was all his fault. He thought his father was cruel and overbearing; there were too many rules. He wanted freedom. He wanted to have fun, but his father was all **about responsibility and hard** work. So, he asked for his share of the inheritance. He didn't care about the farm; he just wanted the money. As soon as he got it, he left. He could finally do what he wanted to do.

But it didn't take long and all that money was gone—partying is expensive. Those he thought were his friends left as soon as he ran out of money. He was all alone and miserable. He had two choices, and neither seemed pleasant. He could continue as he was and hope he could scrape enough together each day so that he wouldn't starve to death, or he could go back home.

He headed for home. He was prepared to grovel, to ask to be just a hired hand on his father's farm. But he didn't get the opportunity to do much groveling. As soon as his father saw him coming, he ran out to meet him. He hugged and kissed him, and gave orders for a huge celebration in his honor. The rebellious son had expected a cool reception. He had expected an "I told you so." Instead he got what he knew he didn't deserve: a joyous welcome home.

You and I are that young man who rebelled against his father. We have all rebelled against our heavenly Father. We have considered him to be cruel and overbearing and having too many rules—someone who doesn't want us to have any fun. We have all separated ourselves from him and broken his commandments. Our consciences tell us that he is angry, that we deserve whatever pain or suf-

fering comes our way. Could our heavenly Father still love us? Could he still welcome us to his eternal home in heaven?

Jesus' story about the disobedient son in Luke 15:11-24 is a short story that speaks volumes for our lives. It assures us of God's love and our heavenly home. Our heavenly Father loves us so much that he punished his obedient Son, Jesus, in our place so that he can welcome us as his dear children and heirs of eternal life. Instead of giving us what we deserve for our rebelliousness, he gives us what we don't deserve: complete forgiveness in Jesus.



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

JANUARY 20, 2019

OPENING DEVOTION

- The meeting opened at 11:55am with Pastor Neumann leading us in a short devotion based on Ephesians.

ATTENDANCE

- Pastor Neumann, Scott Templeton, Brad Rahmlow, Annette Markhardt, Brad Markhardt, Dave Kellen, Kari Kellen, Dave Spaude, Mark Mueller, Rudy Jeseritz, Brent Bacon, Grady and Nina Severson, Ray and Judy Sommers, Jerry Kirchman, Garrett Jessie, Cody Heller, Dale and Linda Jessie, Tyler Jessie, Gale and Karen Jessie, Bill Yahnke, Karen Yahnke

ELDERS REPORT

- Transfer of
 - Nicole Stelter to Ascension Lutheran Church-Plymouth, MN MSC (Moved; Seconded; Consensus)
 - Todd and Alisa Volk to Christ Lutheran Church-North St. Paul, MN-MS
- Release of
 - Hilarie Hertz (Taylor, Allisen) MSC
- Non-member baptism - Anthony John Rogers (11-27-18)
- Garrett reviewed a statistical report for the 4th quarter of 2018

SPECIAL REPORTS

- Property Committee—Scott reviewed activities of the property committee in 2018.
- Outreach Committee
 - Brad M. reviewed a summary of the activities of the outreach committee in 2018.
 - Brad M. mentioned that the Outreach Committee would like approval of the United Voices of Praise concert to be held on 6/25/19. This event would have a cost of \$2,060 for a bus to bring the singers up to BRF. Additional cost to host the concert in the Lunda band shell would be \$150. Further discussion will be held as part of the overall budget.
- Jesus Cares Ministry-Mark gave an update on the activities of the group.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$2,430.67. MSC to accept financial report for December 31, 2018.
- Cody also presented the following reports-General Fund report, YTD P&L comparison, Budget vs. Actuals and Faith Alive pledge update-MS.
- Budget 2019
 - Cody presented the budget recommendation from the Church Council. He also presented the methodology used to determine the 2019 budget. Recommendations to changing the budgeting process.
 - ✦ Recommend liquidation of Housing Allowance at rate recommended by Synod. \$10,704 in 2019.
 - ✦ Elimination of separate income accounts. All offerings would become a general offerings.
 - ✦ Budgeting will be based upon discretionary funding allocation with guided income goals.
 - ✦ Payments for CMO and mortgage will come out of the general fund instead of specific envelopes.
 - ✦ A long discussion regarding the budget and specific line items took place.
 - Motion and second to accept changes to methodology (shown in four points above). Motion carried. Motion and a second to accept recommended budget of \$206,584.26 for 2019 as recommended by the

THE CHANGE FOR LIFE PROGRAM IS HERE!

“Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.” 1John 3:18



Our congregation is participating in the Change for Life program to help support mothers and babies at New Beginnings. Since 1993, New Beginnings has provided a place for a single mother and her child to live, learn to care for her child, and, most importantly, learn about God and the salvation he provides in Jesus.

If you picked up a baby bottle, please return the filled bottle to church on or before February 17.

www.homeformothers.com



Lenten Suppers

As we approach the season of Lent, we again have the wonderful opportunity to see how God has blessed us, and how he provides for both our physical needs (in the form of convenient meals) and our souls (mid-week Lent services to reflect on and express our gratitude for what he did for us). We see Lent as a special time, a time for repentance and renewal.

The Ladies of Faith in Black River Falls have been forming teams, with each team working together on two of the six Wednesdays of Lent. This year's menu will be a variety of soup and sandwiches each evening. The Ladies Aid in Cataract has also been planning their meals. Our church ladies thank everyone for their kindness and willingness to serve.

Plan ahead starting Wednesday, March 6 and running through April 10 for suppers from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at each location; followed by the mid-week service at 6:30 p.m. in Black River Falls; and preceded by a service at 4:30 p.m. in Cataract.



CHRISTIAN LIFE RESOURCES

OUR MISSION

To use Life & Family Issues As Bridges To Convey The Love of God & To Share The Message Of Salvation Through Christ.

This organization educates people on what God's Word has to say about the value and sanctity of human life. The intent is to mobilize Christians to make God-pleasing decisions about life and family issues. We focus attention on many issues such as: abortion, infertility, birth control, post-abortion syndrome, assisted suicide, and euthanasia.

OUR BEGINNING

When the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion nationally on January 22, 1973, members of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Libertyville, Illinois, saw the need to do something. Working with their pastor and with members from area Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) congregations, they opened the first WELS Lutherans for Life pregnancy counseling center. As time passed, more and more independent centers sprouted up around the country until 1983 when they united to form the national organization that existed as WELS Lutherans for Life. In 1999, the name was changed to Christian Life Resources, Incorporated.

OUR AFFILIATION WITH THE WELS

Christian Life Resources subjects itself to the doctrine and practice of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, but it is not supervised or funded by the WELS budget or its administrators.

OUR GROWTH

Today, our organization consists of pregnancy care centers across the United States. These centers are visited by approximately 11,000 clients each year. Our network of pregnancy care affiliates offer a warm heart, listening ear and helping hand along with a wealth of information to guide those involved in an unexpected life choice.

Christian Life Resources founded and supports New Beginnings – A Home for Mothers, located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This program began in 1993 in response to the needs of single mothers and their newborns by providing residence and assistance in spiritual, academic, and vocational concerns.

MISSION FESTIVAL (SPECIAL SERVICE TIME)

We will be having a special mission festival preacher and Bible Class presenter on Sunday, February 24. Please NOTE the items below!

- ⇒ This will be a joint service held at Cataract. Service will start at 9:30 a.m. that morning.
- ⇒ There will be a Bible Class Presentation on Christian Life Resources at 10:45 a.m. (Information on their mission, beginning and growth can be read above)
- ⇒ There will be Sunday School that day—also at 10:45 a.m.
- ⇒ A door offering will be collected to support Christian Life Resources after service that day.
- ⇒ A potluck will be held after the Bible Class at 12 noon. Look for more information in the weeks to come about what to bring.

Council. Motion Passed, 1 vote against-explanation regarding dissenting vote was due to use of discretionary funding vs. ministry plan.

- Recommendation for quarterly ministry minutes and information ahead of the next quarterly Congregational meeting

NEW BUSINESS

- Council Election—Nominated Candidates are Dave Spaude, Joe Southwood and Dale Jessie.
 - Election was held and resulted in Dave Spaude and Dale Jessie being elected to Council.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.
- Next Congregational meeting on April 28, 2019 at 11:00am in Cataract.

ADDENDUM

- A short meeting was held following the Congregational Meeting to organize the positions on the Council for 2019. They are as follows.
 - 1. Chair-Dale Jessie 2. Elder-Dave Spaude 3. Secretary-Garrett Jessie 4. Financial Secretary-Jerry Kirchman and Grady Severson 5. Treasurer-Brad Rahmlow

Recorded By Brad Rahmlow

YOUTH GROUP TUBING

The Youth Group will go tubing at either Fort McCoy or Bruce Mound on Saturday, February 23. Please watch the bulletin for further details as the youth will decide which location at their meeting in February. Where we go will depend on when we meet and where we meet.



From the Library

Looking for a book of prayers? Our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at the BRF location has a few choices.

- ◇ He Hears My Voice, has hundreds of prayers. It includes daily prayers, prayers for special occasions and holidays, and prayers for special needs.
- ◇ A Year of Prayer, (2 copies) has a year's worth of morning and evening prayers. When you can't find the right words in your daily talks with God, these prayers will give you a starting point and helpful direction.
- ◇ A Child's Garden of Prayer, guides children in their talks with their heavenly Father. They will find that they can pray about anything, anywhere and anytime because God always listens.

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.

NEW BIBLE CLASS

The Book of Revelation:

The beast, the dragon, the hallelujah chorus. What do these things all have in common? They can all be found in the last book of the Bible. Join us Sunday, February 3 as the Bible class begins its study of the book of Revelation. We will meet at 11 a.m. Learn how to properly interpret this fascinating book and be strengthened in your faith as you wait for the Lord’s return.



CHILD PROTECTION AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

You may recall that in August an announcement was made that our WELS Synod is encouraging each congregation to formulate and adopt a child protection policy. As a result, our church council felt that it was a good idea to form an Ad Hoc Committee to research and develop this policy. We will meet for our first meeting on Saturday, February 23 at 9 am in Black River Falls. Any member of our congregation can be a member of this committee.

Euchre

This is a classic Midwestern card game!

February 9, 6-8 pm, in Black River Falls



Sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church, **FiSH is a social group** geared toward recreational activities for **adults**, single or married, younger or older. Feel free to invite your friends!

With ALL of our activities, experience is NEVER required – come and learn and have fun!
Contact Brad Markhardt with questions

CENTRAL AFRICAN MEDICAL MISSION

Lutheran Mobile Clinic (LMC)—Malawi—January 2019

In our newsletters we often discuss LMC. As Lutherans we have had conversations about how we show God’s love by providing primary health care to people in the rural areas of Malawi. We have also talked about the clinics and how our primary focus is on mothers and young children while also providing outpatient services and HIV counseling. But what is seldom discussed and what makes LMC unique is the fact that we are mobile.

Unlike our sister clinic in Mwembezhi in Zambia which is static, at LMC all services and supplies are brought to the people. On an average day, 10-12 medical staff make their journey to clinic sites by using the ambulance for transport. The current villages are Suzi, Thunga, Msambo, and Mwalaulomwe—all of which are within an hour’s drive from Lilongwe. Early each clinic day, all supplies, equipment, medications, and in the case of Thunga Village—additional water, are loaded onto the Ambulance for the day’s journey. At the end of the day everything is offloaded, and supplies are restocked ready for tomorrow’s clinic.

The vehicles not only perform the mundane tasks of taking staff and equipment to the clinics but are also equipped with marking, lights and sirens for emergency transportation of patients to the general hospital in Lilongwe. Recently a very pregnant woman came to clinic and was found to be in labor, she was immediately put in the ambulance and was transported (with lights and sirens) to the Chiwamba health center. The baby was delivered in the back of the ambulance three minutes after we arrived.

Our vehicle of choice is the Toyota Land Cruiser. The version we use here in Malawi bears no resemblance to

the Land Cruiser that is seen on the roads in the United States. Ours are tough, ruggedized, 4 wheel drive vehicles that can reliably carry up to 13 people plus a roof rack loaded with equipment and supplies.

Currently we have two ambulances, the older one is 8 years old and is getting to the stage where repairs become more numerous and costly. The newer vehicle is 5 years old. Every week over 900 patients depend on LMC to show up. Cancelling clinic due to vehicle repairs is not acceptable. The reliability of these vehicles is paramount as we simply cannot have them in the workshop for any extended period of time. For that reason, we replace them on a five-year cycle before maintenance becomes a problem. This year we will replace the older vehicle. A new Land Cruiser is not cheap. A vehicle delivered to Malawi costs a little under \$40,000.

It is hard to overstate the importance of these vehicles to the medical mission here in Malawi. Simply put, they put the “mobile” in Lutheran Mobile Clinic and are vital to our operations as blood pressure cuffs and malaria medications. As our Central African Medical Mission team continues the effort to raise the funds for the new ambulance we ask for your prayers to bless this work and your support to allow us to continue to show God’s love to the people of Malawi.

Gary Evans,
Clinic Administrator

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY
JANUARY 14, 2019

OPENING DEVOTION

The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Neumann leading us in a devotion on “Understanding Law and Gospel.”

ATTENDANCE

Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Jerry Kirchman, Brad Rahmlow, Dale Jessie, Cody Heller, Grady Severson.

PASTOR’S REPORT

Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of December
He updated the council on the Revelation Bible Class as well as let the council know that he expects 3 individuals to attend the Bible Instruction Class
He reminded the council about and encouraged the council to make use of the next Marriage Enrichment Event on February 1 in Black River Falls.
He updated the council on things that the Youth Group is working on and planning to do: Tubing in February; Lock-in (March 22, 2019 – in BRF); Charity Bags

FINANCIAL REPORT

Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$2,430.67 for 2018. MSC (Moved; Seconded; Consensus) to approve in addition to the Budget vs. Actual report and the Faith Alive Pledge.

NEW BUSINESS

The budget was presented with the council, outreach chairman and pastor sharing their thoughts and concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. with Pastor leading us in the Lord’s Prayer.
Next Council meeting on February 11, 2019 6pm in CAT.

Recorded By Brad Rahmlow