

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

Ad Hoc Child Protection

Saturday—February 1 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls

Elders Meeting

Monday – February 3 @ 6:00 pm in Cataract

Ladies Aid

Thursday—February 6 @ 12:30 p.m. in Cataract

FiSH Win, Lose or Draw

Saturday—February 8 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Ladies of Faith

Monday – February 10 @ 6:00 p.m. in Cataract

Worship Planning

Wednesday – February 12 @ 9:00 a.m. in Black River Falls

Youth Group

Sunday—February 16 @ 2 p.m. in Black River Falls

Church Council Meeting

Monday—February 17 @ 6 p.m. in Cataract

Faith Teachers Meeting

Sunday – February 23 @ 6 pm in Black River Falls

SCHEDULE CHANGE

During the season of Lent our normal Wednesday confirmation and Bible study classes will move to Mondays. We will still meet at 5:30 p.m. for confirmation and 7 p.m. for Bible Study. The first day of this change will be Monday, February 24.

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.



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

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. You can also contact Pastor Neumann either in person or at the following email address: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com. Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.



February 2020

More Than Mere Roses

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible. This month's favorite Bible verse is: John 3:16.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"

"What can I give to prove my love?"

With Valentine's Day approaching you may want to consider this question. Maybe you will give a card—perhaps one that plays a song about love. Maybe you will give flowers—red roses still seem like a good way to say I love you. If you're a romantic, you might plan something special—maybe a candle-lit dinner without the kids or a surprise get-away.

In the Bible, we hear about what God gave to prove his love for us. In the book of John it says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."



God didn't just pick out a cute card or buy some roses for us. To prove his love, he gave his Son for us. And the greatness of God's love is seen in what he gave his Son to. When Jesus came to earth, he was given to a world that hated him; he was given to humiliation and torture, and ultimately, to death on a cross. As a parent,

to give my child to suffer all of this is unimaginable. It would be nearly impossible to give so much for someone else. Can you relate? Yet God willingly gave his one and only, dearly loved Son for us.

So why did God do it? Because in the suffering of God's Son we see the penalty for our sins. God chose to punish his Son instead of us.

God did this to prove his love for you. He loves you so much that he gave his Son to die your death. He loves you so much that he will give eternal life to all who believe.

This Valentine's Day please reflect on the One who proved his love by giving more than mere roses; he gave his Son.



Central Africa Medical Mission Malawi/Zambia
January 2020



“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, ‘The LORD is my portion; therefore, I will wait for him.’”

Lamentations 3:22-24

At this time each year, I can’t help but look forward to the next year and in this case, the next decade. The thoughts of something “new” – new beginnings, new time to use better, new, new, new – and it is exciting. At the same time, I can’t help but look back and reflect on the previous year – what was accomplished, what was learned, what created joy. I get to do this in my personal and professional life. As a member of The Central Africa Medical Mission, I also reflect on what 2019 meant for CAMM and what plans we have for 2020.

2019 was another unbelievable year for CAMM. God’s blessings for the work that we do shouldn’t ever surprise us, but regularly we sit at our meetings in happy surprise and humbled awe on how God does. Here are a few highlights of the year:

*In Mwembeshi, Zambia: Alisad Banda, Administrator, and Jackson Kalekwa, Clinical Officer, continue to handle the day to day operations at the almost 60 year old clinic. Under the guidance of these 2 men, the clinic continues to serve over 10,000 patients a year. We are blessed that both of these men are our brothers in faith and are able to let God’s light shine in their interactions with the staff, patients and many others.

*Gary and Beth Evans settled into their second year in Malawi. The Evans continue to be a wonderful blessing that God has given CAMM. Their experience, guidance and dedication to the mission have enabled us to be more collaborative between our Malawi Operations and our Zambia Operations.

*Beth has focused on working with the staff to improve how we triage our patients at each clinic site in Malawi, signing them up for training sessions for their own professional development and empowering them to bring their suggestions forward.

*Gary has focused on the grounds of our clinic sites in both Zambia and Malawi. In Zambia, we are readying the “new” clinic building for move-in, so we can create more space in the old clinic building. In Malawi, we have made major improvements at our Mwalaulomwe clinic building, including a new procedure room and are continuing to work on the plan to improve Msambo and Thunga.

*We were blessed with many donations from our supporters – monetary and otherwise, including pill bottles, baby hats and blankets, sunscreen and more. (Please make sure to reach out to Cheryl Valus, Contact Woman Coordinator, for a list of special projects that are available.)

*There are so many more blessings that CAMM has received in 2019 – most of which have been highlighted in the monthly letters and on our Facebook and web pages.

As I sit in awe of what God has allowed us to do in 2019, I can’t help but look forward and be excited about 2020. Here are some of the things that we are looking forward to:

- *Continuing to repair our clinic sites and boreholes in Malawi
- *Repairing the old clinic building in Zambia
- *Continued collaboration with our teams in Malawi and Zambia and possibly other organizations
- *Hiring a few new staff members
- *Helping others go to college with the Althea Sauer Scholarship and more – much more!

Plus, as we approach 2021, we will be celebrating God’s Grace for the 60 years of operations in Zambia for the Central Africa Medical Mission. We will focus on all that God has guided us to do in our first 60 years and prepare for the next 60 years. Please keep your eyes open for all of the different projects that we will be highlighting in 2020 – 2021! With 2019 wrapping up, our prayer for you is that God continues to bless you as He has blessed CAMM.

Shelly Sievert – Chairperson – CAMM Committee Stateside

ENVELOPE EXPLANATION

At the congregational meeting last month, a brief explanation concerning our offering envelopes was given. This explanation was given in the hopes to clarify the purpose and function of our offering envelopes—especially the three pictured to the right.

In 2019, the decision was made to combine all our offerings into one account. This means that offerings given in all envelopes go into the same account. From this account our Capital Improvements—including the mortgage payments—as well as our Congregational Mission Offerings are paid. So why continue with the envelopes pictured to the right?

The fact that the “Special Mission Offering” envelope appeared in the envelope box in 2020 was an oversight. It was not intended to be in there.

The council decided to keep the “Designated Offering for Capital Improvement Fund” envelope in the envelope box for 2020. The reason for this was to help members remember that even though all our offerings were being placed into one account, we still have the responsibility of mortgage payments on a monthly basis. All offerings in these envelopes are directed to the General Fund. This envelope will be removed in 2021.

The special offering envelopes (like Easter, Christmas, Lent, etc.) will continue to remain in the offering boxes into the future. This is so that individual members may have the opportunity—after prayerful consideration and if they are so moved—to give offerings over and above their regular offerings at these special services. These offerings are also placed into the General Fund.



**YOUTH GROUP
OUTING**

The Youth Group will go tubing at the Whitetail Ridge Ski Area on Saturday, February 15. The cost for tubing is \$17 and we will plan to stop in Sparta on our way home to grab a bite to eat for supper. We will meet in the Black River Falls parking lot at 12:00 p.m. and carpool from there. Please have your youth fed before we leave. Please let Pastor know if you are going.



February Anniversary	
Kirk + Laura Goetzka	2/14

February 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



... Our Every Physical and Spiritual Need

You have heard the story of Jesus *Feeding the Five Thousand*. Despite having seen Jesus perform countless miracles, and just recently having returned from being given the, “power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases . . . and to heal the sick” (Luke 9:1, 2), the disciples turned to human resources and solutions when Jesus tested them about how to feed so many people. Eventually the disciples realized that human solutions cannot take care of us; but were assured by Jesus that he had the power to provide for every physical and spiritual need.

As we move to 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.

God will not be using a miracle to provide meals before our Wednesday services, but will provide naturally through the blessing and service of our families taking care of each other and our guests. 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. The Ladies Aid in Cataract have also been planning their meals. Our church leaders and ladies thank everyone for their kindness and willingness to serve.

Plan ahead starting Wednesday, February 26 and running through April 1 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. And remember, Jesus has assured Christians that he has the power to provide for our every physical and spiritual need.

LIBRARY CORNER

In the Bible Stories section of our church library located in the fellowship hall at our BRF location, you will find the book, *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* by Arthur W. Gross. This book has 60 Old and New Testament Bible stories that were written especially for children ages 6 to 8. Help your children grow in faith as together you read these timeless Bible lessons about God's faithfulness, grace, and mercy to his people.

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



FiSH

February 6-8 pm



Win, Lose or Draw with FiSH group (Faith's Social Harbor) invites adults for an evening of Win, Lose or Draw – basically charades using a whiteboard. Experience is NEVER required with any of our activities – come, learn and have fun! We'll meet Saturday, February 8, 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. 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.



LENTEN WORSHIP – “THE SON OF GOD GOES FORTH TO WAR”

Starting Wednesday, February 26 and continuing through Wednesday, April 1, we will have special Lenten Wednesday afternoon/evening worship services in Cataract (4:30 p.m.) and Black River Falls (6:30 p.m.). These services will revolve around the theme: *The Son of God Goes Forth to War*.

The Bible is full with imagery and descriptions of our Savior Jesus as the warrior who fights and defeats sin, death, and Satan. Throughout this Lenten series we will focus on an aspect of our Savior-warrior as he is promised to us, fights our enemies for us, and triumphs over them for us. We will consider these themes:

The Promised Warrior

Skirmishes

The Warrior Rejected by Many Followers

Reconnaissance Report: Know Your Enemy

The Warrior Faces Satan's Ally, the World

The Greatest Battle Ever Fought

Hidden Warrior

That Battle is Personal

Victory!

We pray that the Lord richly bless our Lenten worship so that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened in order to “know the hope to which he has called [us], the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18,19).

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Services – February 26

4:30 pm – Cataract

5:30 pm—Simple Suppers (CAT & BRF)

6:30 pm – Black River Falls



FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

January 20, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a devotion focused on Engaging Members in Ministry. One question/comment/suggestion that arose from the devotion was: should we have council meetings earlier in the month on the months that there is a congregational meeting? The purpose for this would be so that information for the congregational meeting can get into the hands of members a week prior to the meeting so they can be prepared and informed of what will/might be discussed.
- Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Jerry Kirchman, Dave Spaude, Grady Severson, Brad Markhardt, Scott Templeton

ELDER’S REPORT

- Dave Spaude reported that the elders met with the deaconess for the first time at their meeting in January. He also reported that a membership tracking system is continuing to be implemented

PASTOR’S REPORT

- Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of December
- Pastor asked the church council to officially make a motion to approve the men who will serve as communion assistants for the 2020 year. Those assistants will be Jerry Kirchman, Dave Spaude, Scott Templeton, Brad Rahmlow, and Jeff Nicolai. Motion, Seconded, Consensus (MSC)
- Pastor informed the council that there is some confusion among some members as to what each offering envelop is for – specifically the “Special Mission Offering” envelope and the “Capital Improvement Fund” (CIF) envelopes. Council plans to address these concerns at the next congregational meeting. The plan would be to remove the CIF envelopes in the future.
- Pastor asked if the council would choose a date for the summer joint worship service and picnic. He suggested Sunday, June 28. The council agreed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Brad presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$22,239.43 through the end of 2019. MSC to accept financial report for 2019
- Council voted to propose a budget of \$211,040 to the congregation at the next congregational meeting for approval. MSC
- Council will discuss setting caps for funding conferences at a later date

SPECIAL REPORTS

- Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord’s Prayer.

The next Council Meeting will be held in Cataract at 6 pm.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

January 26, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting opened at 1:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a short prayer.

ATTENDANCE

- Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Ray Sommers, Judy Sommers, Jerry Kirchman, Dave Spaude, Grady Severson, Nina Severson, Brad Rahmlow, Dave Kellen, Kari Kellen, Karen Noard, Gale Jessie, Richard Treptow

ELDER’S REPORT

- Adult Confirmation
 - Cory Bue (Abigail and Kendall). Ratified to be accepted into membership at Faith. Motion. Seconded. Consensus. (MSC)
- Transfer in
 - Ron and Karen Baerbock, Mikah Huggett, and Lloyd and Kimberly Harter (Eleanor). Ratified to be accepted into membership at Faith. MSC
- Dave Spaude presented a statistical report...
 - For the last quarter of 2019; for membership changes in 2019; and a report that was submitted to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
 - These reports are available in the gathering area at both of Faith’s campuses

SPECIAL REPORTS

- The congregation reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt (copies can be found in the gathering area)
- Property Committee – Scott Templeton gathered a quote from Oium Paving to sealcoat the parking lot at the BRF location for \$7,500. The congregation voted to budget the money for this repair in 2020. MSC

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Brad presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$22,239.13 through the end of 2019. MSC to accept financial report for 2019.
- The congregation voted to accept the 2020 budget of \$211,040.18. MSC (copies can be found in gathering areas)
- The congregation voted to support the cost of the International Youth Rally as follows. The congregation will pay the total cost of transportation (minus gas), full cost of the rally (\$375) for 3 chaperones, and \$200 for each child. \$100 will be given to each lady for the women’s retreat. There will be roughly \$1,000 left in the budget for all other conferences throughout the year for a total of \$5,500. MSC

NEW BUSINESS

- The congregation voted to amend the Church Constitution for the addition of a deaconess within the Elder’s Committee. The wording shall be as follows: “The Elder’s Committee shall consist of three to five members including the chairman, who shall be appointed by the church council. The chairman will be a member of the Council. The remaining member shall be appointed by the committee chairman, including a deaconess.”
- The congregation voted to allow all pastors of the congregation to have 3 weeks (Sundays) of vacation after 10 years serving in the ministry.
- Kirk Goetzka and Rick Treptow were both elected to the church council. Ballots were tallied by Garrett Jessie and Dave Spaude. We thank them for their willingness to serve, and we thank Grady Severson and Jerry Kirchman for their years of service on the council.
- Individual positions within the church council will be decided at the next council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord’s Prayer

The next Quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held in Cataract April 26th—time to be announced.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie