



### YOUTH GROUP OUTING

An outing for the youth group is being planned for Saturday, February 20. The plan is to go tubing at Bruce Mound. The cost for tubing is \$11. We will meet in the Black River Falls parking lot at 12:00 p.m. and carpool from there. Please have your child fed before we leave. Any parents who would like to go are welcome. Both youth and/or parents, please let Pastor know if you are going.

### YOUTH GROUP MEETING

We'll plan to meet at 2:30 pm on Sunday, February 21. We'll meet 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)

**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). Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.



*Everything that exists has attributes or characteristics. They are what help to define that thing. God has attributes as well. This year in our newsletter articles we are going to take a look at some of the attributes of God. As we consider his attributes, we will be considering God's own essence. As we consider his attributes, we will be confronted by mysteries beyond our full comprehension. Yet, we can simply listen to his Word and marvel.*

## Our God is...Love

"How much do you love me?" Brenda asked her two-year-old son. Jonah held out his hands about a foot apart and said, "I love you this much."

Paul turned to Jonah's twin sister and asked her, "Hannah, how much do you love me?" Hannah extended her hands as far apart as they would go. "I love you this much," she said.

Four-year-old Kevin was watching closely. When Brenda and Paul asked him how much he loved them, they expected him to copy the actions of his younger brother and sister. Instead, he spread his arms out in front of him as wide as possible and then curled them down and behind his back until they met. Kevin said, "This is how much I love you, all the way around."

Brenda and Paul looked at each other in amazement. Kevin understood that the greatest love is all-encompassing!

If your sweetheart asks you how much you love her on Valentine's Day, you probably should not just



stretch out your arms. You probably shouldn't even curl them behind your back, unless you have a gift hidden there!

Yet, it is in the outstretched arms of Jesus that we know the love God has for us—all of us.

Perhaps you have seen pictures of Jesus with his arms spread wide on the cross. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

Valentine's Day is a good day to express your love for the special people in your life. It is also a good time as Christians to remember that "We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them" (1 John 4:16).

## FEBRUARY WORSHIP NEWS

**SCHEDULE CHANGE:** Monday evening worship services will continue for ONLY two Monday's in February – February 1 & 8. Those two services will be at 6:30 pm in Black River Falls.

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES:** During Lent, Monday services will be put on hold.

**FACEBOOK LIVE CONTINUES:** It is live during the Black River Falls service each morning. That means **8 a.m.** It is uploaded to our YouTube channel later on Sunday. Wednesday Lenten services will also be livestreamed on Facebook Live and then uploaded to YouTube later that evening. The live service will be at **6:30 p.m.**

### CONFIRMATION

### AND

### BIBLE CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGE

During the season of Lent our normal Wednesday confirmation and Bible study classes will move to Mondays. We will still meet at 4:30 p.m. for confirmation and 6:30 p.m. for Bible Study. The first day of this change will be Monday, February 15. Please note that Bible Study for that week is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday. Keep an eye on the bulletin for any changes.



### Gift Cards for Martin Luther College Students

The Ladies of Faith are collecting gift cards that will be sent to assist married students at Martin Luther College. There are 20 married students enrolled there this school year. The gift cards, from Walmart or Kwik Trip, are used to purchase some needed items for the MLC Food Bank or divided and given to the couples. We will be collecting until February 28th.

### Library Corner

*A Time to Laugh - A Time to Cry* by Bonnie Wasser is in the Christian Family section of our church library located in the fellowship hall at our BRF location. The author uses Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 to emphasize that every moment belongs to God and is intended for his purpose. She tells about the joys, frustrations, disappointments and concerns of raising 25 children from different backgrounds. By showing them the depth of God's love, she hoped to bring each one to a stronger faith in Jesus.

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



## NEW BIBLE CLASS ON THE WAY

Sometime near the end of February or beginning of March we will begin a new Bible Study titled "Gospel Motivation: More Than 'Jesus Died for My Sins.'" This Bible Study will involve reading a book. If you would like to participate in this study, whether in person or at home, please sign up for a book.

purchase the

This Bible  
held at our  
campus on  
11 am and at

River Falls  
Monday's  
and then again  
Wednesday's  
6:30 p.m.  
come and

Copyrighted Material  
Impact Series

### GOSPEL MOTIVATION

More Than "Jesus Died for My Sins"



Robert J. Koester

Copyrighted Material

Faith will  
book for you.  
Study will be  
Cataract  
Sunday's at  
our Black  
campus on  
during Lent  
on  
after Lent at  
All are wel-  
invited.







MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

Ladies Aid

Thursday—February 4 @ 12:30 p.m. at Linda Jessie’s

Ladies of Faith

Tuesday – February 9 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Ad Hoc Child Protection

Saturday—February 13 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls

Church Council Meeting

Monday—February 15 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Outreach Meeting

Sunday – February 21 @ 12:30 pm in Black River Falls

Youth Group

Sunday—February 21 @ 2:30 p.m. in Black River Falls

Faith Teachers Meeting

Sunday – February 21 @ 6 pm in Black River Falls

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

February Anniversary

Kirk + Laura Goetzka 2/14



A LOOK AT LUTHER

LUTHER BEGINS THE REFORMATION

Through his study of the Bible, Martin Luther finally came to the knowledge of the truth. He found his Savior, and through faith he now had peace with God. This made him eager to share the blessings of the Gospel with others. The time had come when he was to give the pure Word of God to the whole world. God used the Pope to move Luther to begin the work of reforming the church.

It came about in this way. The Pope wanted to collect a large sum of money to build St. Peter’s Church in Rome. In order to get this money, he sent monks into Germany to sell indulgences to the people. These indulgences were letters from the Pope which promised the people who bought them that they would not have to suffer so long and so much for their sins in purgatory (remember, purgatory is **not** a teaching of the Bible – it is a **false** teaching). Many people were eager to buy these letters, because they thought it was an easy way to get forgiveness of sins. Some even believed that if they had these papers, they could sin as much as they wished. A monk by the name of John Tetzel offered these indulgences for sale not far from Wittenberg. He promised all who bought them this: “When the pieces of money in the chest do ring; quickly the souls out of purgatory spring.”

Luther was shocked when he heard how Tetzel was deceiving the people. He warned the people of Wittenberg not to buy indulgences. This made Tetzel angry, and he threatened to report Luther to the Pope. But Luther was sure that this business of selling indulgences was wrong and should be stopped. Before writing to the Pope about it, he decided to talk the matter over with other learned men at the university in a public debate. The way this was done in those days was to put down on



paper the points that were to be debated. These points were stated in sentences called theses. They were posted in some public place where everybody could read them.

The first of November, All Saints’ Day, was a great festival in the Catholic Church. Already on the day before, Halloween, the people would flock to the church. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther walked up to the Castle Church in Wittenberg and fastened a sheet of paper to the front door. On this paper he had written 95 theses, in which he showed what was wrong with the indulgences. The people coming to church read the theses and some copied them. In a short time Luther’s theses spread all over Germany and to other parts of Europe.

No one had the courage to enter into a debate with Luther. But the theses caused great excitement among the people everywhere. Some saw his theses as an attack on the Pope and they became angry with him. They said that he should be punished. But many agreed that Luther had stated the truth. Luther himself did not know at the time that he had accused the Catholic Church of false doctrine and that he had, with these theses, begun a reformation of the church.

## Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes SUMMARY

January 14, 2021

### CALL TO ORDER

- ⇒ The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a prayer.
- ⇒ Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie (by speaker phone), Dale Jessie, Kirk Goetzka, Rick Treptow (via zoom), Dave Spaude, Brad Rahmlow, Brad Markhardt, Scott Templeton

### VISION TIMELINE

- ⇒ Council and other members of the congregation reviewed the vision timeline and came up with a list of several items that everyone felt should be the congregation's key focuses in 2021. These were the items:
  - ◇ Improve service projection, audio recording and livestreaming
  - ◇ Strengthen core and leaders...by intentionalizing Bible study participation and encouraging and supporting home devotions
  - ◇ Jesus Cares at church and group homes
  - ◇ Explore early childcare ministry opportunities
  - ◇ Seek volunteer part-time office assistant

### FINANCIAL REPORT

- ⇒ Brad R. presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$14,277.11 through the end of 2020. MSC to accept financial report for 2020.
- ⇒ Council voted to remove the housing allowance transfer for a total of -\$10,704 income from the budget. MSC
- ⇒ Council voted to propose a budget of \$209,533 to the congregation at the next congregational meeting for approval. This budget would give year-end balance of -\$10,805.MSC

### OLD BUSINESS

- ⇒ The church council nominees will be Ron Baerbock, Tyler Jessie, and Garrett Jessie.
- ⇒ We will be continuing the pastor rotation and meals on Wednesday night services throughout Lent.
- ⇒ We will be discontinuing Monday night services during Lent. More discussions will be had on continuing them in the future.
- ⇒ Hymnals will again be available for use during services, however all information will still be printed in the service bulletins.

### NEW BUSINESS

- ⇒ Carmon Gilbertson will be transferred to St. Matthew's in Winona. MSC
- ⇒ There is an opportunity to be eligible for a second PPP loan. More discussion on whether or not we will apply for this loan will happen next month.

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

The next Council Meeting will be held in CAT February 15 at 6 pm

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

# LENT IS FAST APPROACHING

The season of Lent is fast approaching. During this season we have extra opportunity to gather around our Lord's Word and be encouraged by our fellow members. Below are the special worship services for the Lenten season during this month. God's blessings as you adjust your schedule around God's Word that you might make use of this blessed worship opportunity.

### MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

#### FEBRUARY 17 – ASH WEDNESDAY

- 4:30 p.m. – Service in Cataract
- 5:30 p.m. – Simple Supper at both locations
- 6:30 p.m. – Service in Black River Falls

#### FEBRUARY 24 – MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

- 4:30 p.m. – Service in Cataract
- 5:30 p.m. – Simple Supper at both locations
- 6:30 p.m. – Service in Black River Falls



### Lenten Wednesday 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 Lenten 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.

For those comfortable attending, we will be serving simplified meals with soup and sandwiches each evening. If you are interested in helping the Ladies of Faith in Black River Falls, please contact Kari Kellen if you were not at the January LOF meeting.. 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, February 17 and running through March 24 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.