

- Sunday Bible Class attendance average between our two campuses was 32
- There will be special services coming up on January 23rd (Youth Sunday) and One by One Sundays which have an emphasis on evangelism - January 30, February 13, 20, 27
- The Youth Group will have many events coming up including: Roller skating, Youth Lock-in, Easter for Kids and the Youth Rally

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Tyler presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$6646.03 through the end of December, 2021. Motion, Second, and Confirmed (MSC) to accept financial report for December, 2021
- An additional \$50,000 was added to the Jubilee Debt Reduction Fund Drive from the general fund making a total loss of \$56,646.03 for the year.
- Tyler discussed the refinance of the loan. The new loan will be at 4.45% from the existing 4.5%. The money paid toward the loan as part of Jubilee Debt Reduction has reduced us from a 29 year loan to a 25 year loan while also reducing our monthly payment from \$4,160 to \$3,734
- Council voted between two options for setting the Congregation Mission Offering (CMO) amount. The first option was to increase to 10% of the budget and the second option was to increase the amount 10% from last year's CMO offering. The council voted to recommend to the congregation to increase the CMO offering by 10% over last year to \$15,972 on a vote of 2 to 3. MSC
- Council will recommend to the congregation that the church will donate \$500 to each child and chaperone that will be attending the International Youth Rally. MSC
- Council is proposing a budget of \$210,879.29 which is a net loss of \$9,979.29 to the general fund over the year. MSC

OLD BUSINESS

Tyler and Pastor will create a newsletter article detailing an online giving platform
The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer
Recorded by Garrett Jessie



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

N6774 Acorn Ave.
Sparta, WI 54656

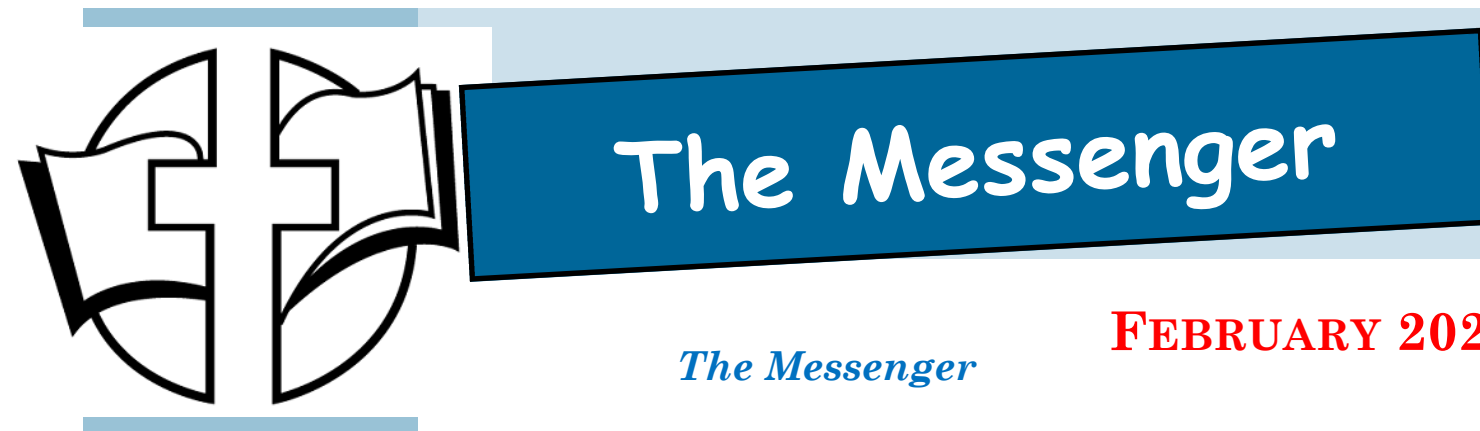
Phone: 715-284-0772
Pastor: Joel Neumann

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

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.



FEBRUARY 2022

The Messenger

How can God forgive me for all the bad things ?

I forgot Valentine's Day! I had no excuse. There were plenty of reminders. My wife asked, "Should we go out to eat or to a movie for Valentine's Day next week?" and "Wouldn't that make a good gift for Valentine's Day?" Still, I forgot Valentine's Day.

That was five years ago. Thankfully, my loving wife has forgiven me for my mistake.

My mistake was relatively mi-



nor. But sometimes, we are wronged by others in ways that are very difficult to forgive and impossible to forget. Have you been forsaken by a close friend? Is your connection to parents or children strained? Does your marriage have forbidden subjects, subjects that only reopen old wounds? Forgiveness was offered, but the hurt feelings don't just disappear. To forgive and forget is what you want, but sometimes the hurt is so deep that after forgiving, you still remember.

A friend once told me that every time I hurt or offend anyone, I also offend God. With the strain my mistakes have placed on other relationships, what hope exists for a good relationship with God? If forgiveness from friends is uncertain, how can I hope for God's for-

giveness?

I can have this hope because, thankfully, God thinks differently from the way you and I think. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD" (Isaiah 55:8). The forgiveness won by Jesus' death on the cross is different. "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Jeremiah 31:34). Through Jesus, God forgives, and God forgets!

That is the good news we are reminded of every week when we worship. It is the very best news. We hope you will join us in celebrating God's forgiveness!

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, contact—in person or by email—or Laura Mueller: mueller-laura@hotmail.com or Pastor Neumann: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com

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

SHUT-INS

From time to time we list our shut-in members so that you can include them in your prayers and perhaps send them a note of greeting and Christian love.



- John Pleau

N7525 Cty Road A

Hixton, WI 54635
- Chester Schmid

N7525 Cty Road A

Hixton, WI 54635
- Richard Sitarz

N7525 Cty Road A

Hixton, WI 54635
- Marjorie Boisen

BridgePath Assisted Living 50

503 S. Water St. BP#107

Sparta, WI 54656
- Jim Christie

N453 Arnold Creek Road

Merrillan, WI 54754
- Jan Eggen

400 County Rd R

Black River Falls, WI 54615

WEBMASTER WANTED

Do you know you way around a computer? Are you plugged in to what is going on at church? Do you have an understanding of what makes a good website? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, we would ask for you to consider whether you have the time, skills, and desire to serve as Faith Lutheran Church’s webmaster (the one who takes care of our website).

This would require independent working as well as coordination with Pastor to determine items to be included on the website.

Please speak to Pastor Neumann or a member of the church council if you might be interested. Thank you.



GIFT CARDS

The Ladies of Faith will be collecting gift cards until Feb 6th for the married students at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. They prefer cards from Kwik Trip, Walmart, Pick-n-Save, or Piggly Wiggly. Please give the cards to Pastor Neumann or Annette Markhardt on or before Feb 6th.



FROM THE LIBRARY

"The 5 Love Languages" by Gary Chapman and *"The 5 Love Languages of Children"* by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell can be found in the family issues section of our church library. *"The 5 Love Languages"* helps couples learn how to build a love that lasts a lifetime. *"The 5 Love Languages of Children"* helps parents learn how to make your children feel loved in a way they understand.

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.



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
Jerry Kirchman	2/23
Cody Heller	2/25
Keagen Jessie	2/24
Pam Johnson	2/25

Anniversary

Kirk + Laura Goetzka2/14

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes SUMMARY
January 17, 2022

- CALL TO ORDER
- The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a bible study on the Catechism.
- ATTENDANCE
- Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Dave Spaude, Kirk Geotzka, Rick Treptow, Tyler Jessie, Scott Templeton
- ELDER’S REPORT
- Death of Allan Anderson on December 25, 2021
- PASTOR’S REPORT
- Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of December
 - Average worship attendance in December was 80 (89 including online participants)

LENT WILL BE HERE SOON

If we were to use just one word to describe Jesus' suffering and death, might we use the word "crucial?" That is, "critically important." At the cross of Christ, time and eternity converged into humanity's most important moment: the moment Jesus won eternal life for us.

This year's Lenten Season will be shaped around that theme: "The Crucial Hours."

The season of Lent begins Wednesday, March 2. During this season we have extra opportunity to gather around our Lord's Word and be encouraged by our fellow members.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES START IN MARCH

MARCH 2 – 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

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.

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 or Annette Markhardt. 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 2 and running through April 6 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.



Register Now!

2022 WELS Coulee Women's Retreat
April 2, 2022
Christ Lutheran Church
West Salem, WI

This retreat provides an opportunity for WELS/ELS women and their friends to gather together, encourage each other with God's Word, & go forth to share God's Word with others.

Registration forms and itinerary are available online at www.facebook.com/WCWRetreat. Register by March 15 – discount for early registration By February 15.



FAITH OUTREACH MEETING

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include looking at a possible promotional video short and community concert preparations. Our meeting will take place Sunday, February 13, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building

Special Focus Sundays

The month of February will give us the opportunity to focus on personal evangelism.

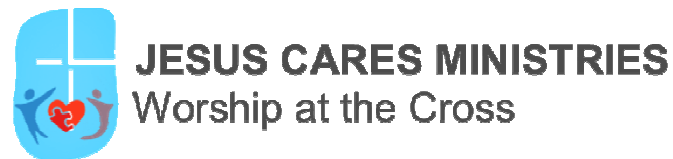
Sunday, February 13, 20, 27

On these Sunday we will incorporate a Bible Study in with our regular worship. The Bible study is titled: "One by One." This is a Bible study based on a presentation by WELS Pastor David Rosenau. Using powerful personal stories and drawing from his wealth of experience both as a detective and a parish pastor, Pastor Rosenau helps Christians understand why it is so important to see every soul as a treasure and why we want to be willing to spend the time and effort necessary to share the gospel with each one. Our worship will incorporate this presentation into our service.

GO FISH!

The FiSH group (Faith's Social Harbor) invites adults to play some cards on **Saturday, February 12**, at the BRF building location. We will play whatever cards games you would like – Euchre, Sheephead, 500, and yes, even Go Fish if you desire... from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Experience is NEVER required with any of our activities – come, learn and have fun! 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.

- ⇒ With ALL of our activities, **experience is NEVER required – come, learn, and have fun!**
- ⇒ If you have questions, talk with Ken & Carolyn Diener, Brad & Annette Markhardt, or Pastor Neumann



Next Worship at the Cross will be Saturday, **February 19, at 1 pm** at our Black River Falls campus.

YOUTH GROUP OUTING

An outing for the youth group is being planned for Saturday, February 26. The plan is to go roller-skating at High Roller Skating Rink in Eau Claire. The cost will be \$15. We will meet in the Black River Falls parking lot at 12:45 p.m. and carpool from there. Please have your child



fed before we leave. After a few hours of skating, we will find a place to eat. The Church Council approved covering the cost of the meal. We hope to return between 7-8 pm that evening. Any parents who would like to go are welcome. Both youth and/or parents, please let Pastor know if you are going.



The Faith teachers will meet Sunday, February 20, from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the BRF church building.

CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

January 2022



Greetings and a Happy New Year!

I am Lusungu Mwambeye, the clinic administrator-in-training taking over from Gary Evans at the Lutheran Mobile Clinic (LMC). I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in public health, and I am currently pursuing master's degree in healthcare systems management. I am a Christian from St. Peters Lutheran church in Lilongwe, Malawi.

In 2022, after 52 years of operating in Malawi, CAMM will turn the day-to-day management of LMC to Malawian nationals. As a result, LMC hired myself as the clinic administrator in training and Violet Chikwatu as Nurse in charge in training to take over when Gary and Beth Evans, the current administrator and nurse in charge respectively, leave Malawi in June 2022.

As an administrator in training for Lutheran Mobile Clinic, I am so humbled and delighted for this opportunity and being part of the team that is doing great things in terms of reaching out to the people in the hard-to-reach areas in the central region of Malawi with healthcare and spiritual guidance. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world which affects its' ability to deliver quality health care. Most residents reside in the remote areas where they face many challenges in accessing any kind of healthcare service - government or private, and even when they do find a facility, most government hospitals do not have drugs. It's sad and challenging for most Malawians who live below the poverty line and cannot afford to pay for drugs in the private hospitals.

With the help from you, our brothers and sisters in Christ, LMC reaches out to thousands of people with affordable medical treatment and preventive health services. Our Christian staff gives care that patients fail to find in the government hospitals. They also have access to quality water through the boreholes LMC brought to the clinics, and food supplements for malnourished children and orphans. Our staff includes health education daily, with topics such as hygiene, nutrition, prevention of Covid-19 and other infectious diseases, hypertension, malaria, and prenatal care.

As the rains finally come to Malawi, farmers are working hard in the fields, planting their various crops, mainly maize, or corn as it is known in America. This is used to make flour for Nsima which is a staple food and eaten with a relish (Ndiwo) of meat or vegetables. In some areas, mostly near the lakeshore, farmers go for rice and cassava as their most grown crop. We are hoping the government distributes a lot of coupons for fertilizer subsidy to the farmers as the fertilizer prices have gone up which will risk most farmers not applying fertilizer if they miss the subsidy. This will risk low crop yields and food insecurity. We pray for the right amount of rain to water the crops, since it started late this year. A good thunderstorm helped welcome in the new year in Lilongwe and it was an answered prayer.

We are very thankful for your continued support for Lutheran Mobile Clinic. I pray that through God's grace and your support, our clinic will continue to provide both spiritual and physical care to every patient that comes to our four clinic sites. Join me in praying that the Lord continues to bless LMC with dedicated and professional staff, and provides continued safety for our patients, our staff, and our supporters in America.

May the Lord bless you and keep you well in these trying times where Covid-19 has and is roaring globally. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Best regards...Lusungu Mwambeye—Clinic administrator in training.

Christ Centered Healthcare Supporting the Gospel Ministry

Donations may be made by Check, payable to Central Africa Medical Mission and Mailed to:

WELS/CAMM

PO Box 64064

St Paul, MN 55164-0064

or Donate to CAMM online @ www.camm.us/donate-to-camm