

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes Summary
December 20th, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

A prayer began the congregational vision timeline review (please see page 6 for a report on the vision timeline review). Once the meeting ended the council meeting began.

ATTENDANCE

Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Dave Spaude, Kirk Geotzka, Tyler Jessie, Rick Treptow (via phone)

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor asked if the church council was fine participating in a Lenten rotation again this year. Council was in favor.

Average worship attendance in November 72 (83 including online participants)

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tyler reviewed progress made with renewing the church CEF loan.

Several online offering options were reviewed. Council was in favor of going forward with choosing one and the exact platform to be utilized will be explored further.


Pastor asked that as the budget is formulated, to keep in mind that 5-7 youth and 2 adults will likely attend an International Youth Rally this summer.

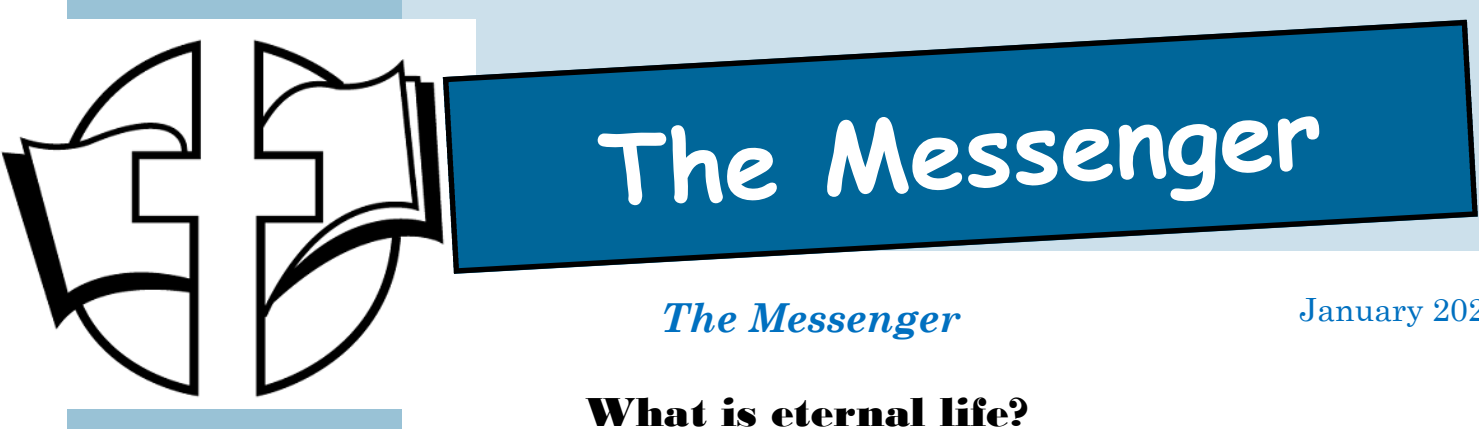
SPECIAL REPORTS

"The Branches Band" will be coming to perform for a Sunday service as well as a Tuesday Concert in the park in June

Recorded by Garrett Jessie



		
Chris Mueller	12/31	
Kelly Rahmlow	1/1	
Candy Janke	1/1	
Cheyenne Bue	1/11	
Dale Timm	1/13	
Jerry Haas	1/14	
Jesody Heller	1/19	
Avery Rahmlow	1/21	
Leo Nelson	1/22	
Joe Southwood	1/24	
Charlene Fisher	1/25	
Laura Mueller	1/26	
Ella Rahmlow	1/28	
Cayson Fatla	1/30	
Cathy Morgan	1/30	



What is eternal life?

It is that time again when we encounter the change from the old year to the new. For some, the ushering in of a new year is a ritual of staying up until midnight to make a bunch of noise or perhaps sing an old song. Yet, one way or another, the beginning of a new year is a time of reflection and planning. We take stock of what happened in the last year. We think of our pains, regrets, joys, surprises, births, and deaths. We also look to the future and ponder what we want to do differently in days to come.

In all of our planning, though, there is this unalterable fact that life here will end. Our time is finite. It has a limit. In fact, everything about this world has a limit.

The Bible tells us of one thing, however, that has no end. Referring to those who follow him, Jesus said, "I give them eternal life" (John 10:28). In view of our knowledge and experience of limited life in this world, we won-



der what eternal life is.

Jesus explains, "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24). Life is being connected to God and his blessings. The opposite is death, which is separation from

God and his goodness. All people are born separated from God because, by nature, they are sinners. As a result, they are headed toward an eternal separation from God to be condemned in a very real place called hell.

But God did something very great. He sent the world a Savior who is Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God. In an unmatched act of love, Jesus placed himself under our condemnation for sin. He willingly suffered the death sentence that all of us deserve.

Through Jesus, God has forgiven the world's sin, which separated people from him, and he gives the gift of eternal life. All who listen to the Savior and believe in God who sent him have eternal life. By faith in the true God of salvation, they have crossed over from death to life. They do not face the fear of separation from God, but they rejoice in a close and blessed relationship with him now and forever.

What a great way to start a new year! We have the confidence that no matter what has happened in days gone by, and whatever the future holds, our life with God is secured forever by faith in Jesus.

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.



CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

December 2021



“This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Happy Christmas!

It's amazing how quickly December comes with all its celebrations. The festive season is greatly celebrated here in Malawi, there are many decorations, most big shops have Christmas decorations and in the local areas loud music is played and a lot of high spirits in those areas. On the Christmas day family gatherings are one of the best things, most Malawians start the day by going to church and then have a nice family meal mostly chicken, rice and drinks as well as crossover events for new year.

God is the source of every blessing, and everything belongs to Him. But He places us and gives to each of us as He sees fit, expecting that we use His gifts to benefit others. No matter what your situation is, you can always do something for someone in need, whatever that need looks like. If you have time, offer it; develop your talents, and use them; if you have money, share it; if nothing else, be a prayer warrior. It is in these times that you see some families and individuals not in high spirits during the holiday season, not because they don't want to be happy, but because they cannot afford to be cheerful and they don't even know if they can feed their family. So, in the festive season it is good to remember with just a little, we can help the less privileged.

As Christians, we know that the true meaning of Christmas is believing that God sent his Son into the world to be our Savior from sin. The people we serve at the Lutheran Mobile Clinic need not only to be healed from physical problems, but spiritual. The difficulties of life can be faced with the help of the truths of the Bible.

The Gospel of God's great love and forgiveness in Christ is the joyful Christmas message we need to share with everyone. We thank you for your part in making this medical mission work possible through your prayers and donations.

Wishing you all a very blessed Christmas.

Lusungu Mwambeye

Clinic administrator in training.

Christ Centered Healthcare Supporting the Gospel Ministry



Congregational Meeting

Our next congregational meeting will be Sunday, January 30, at 11:30 am. This meeting will be held at our Black River Falls campus.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary December 6, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a bible study of the Catechism.

ATTENDANCE

Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Dave Spaude, Kirk Geotzka, Tyler Jessie, Brad Markhardt, Rick Treptow (via phone)

ELDER'S REPORT

The Lord blessed our God's People Gather Sunday with 88 members in attendance and opportunity to talk to the rest of our members

It was decided to only send weekly bulletins and sermons to shut-ins of the congregation

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of November

Worship and Bible Class

Average worship attendance in October was 80 (89 including online participants)

Sunday Bible Class attendance average between our two campuses was 30

It was decided to make the common cup available during Communion once again

FINANCIAL REPORT

Tyler presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$4,424.50 through the end of November. Moved Seconded Confirmed (MSC) to accept financial report for November, 2021

SPECIAL REPORTS

Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt

30 children were in attendance for Christmas Crafts for Kids! 7 of the families had no church home

We will have a Friendship Sunday the week after Easter

"The Branches Band" will be performing at the Concert in the Park this year. They will potentially be enriching our worship service the Sunday before as well. Dates under consideration for the concert in the park will be June 21st and July 26th

OLD BUSINESS

Council approved the purchase of 15 new hymnals to be used for choir use. We will open up to the members of the congregation the opportunity to piggy-back on the order.

Council discussed and will contact men to be nominated for council positions

NEW BUSINESS

There will be a congregational meeting regarding the vision timeline December 20th at 6pm in BRF

Council will be researching and reviewing opportunities for online giving.

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

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

Vision Timeline Review Update

On December 20th, a review of Faith’s Vision Timeline was held at Black River Falls. The gathering of church council and congregational members started at 6 pm with a prayer, and then Pastor directed the conversation by first reviewing the items suggested for focus from last year’s meeting. After discussion, those present felt that the priorities of 2021 were evaluated, explored, and begun in various stages that they did not need to be specifically mentioned in 2022 priorities.

Next, review was made of the current timeline giving time to discuss, suggest, or highlight items those present felt could/should be a priority in the coming year. Included in these were items that were suggested by individuals, groups, and committees prior to this meeting. Each of these items was written on the board until the group had made its way through the vision timeline.

Having finished highlighting certain ministries, ideas and suggestions, the group prioritized the items on the board. It was decided that the top five would receive priority for the year 2022. These are the items that were prioritized:

Utilize Synod Programs at our congregation as workshops/in worship to educate/strengthen faith in areas of, but not limited to, member care, sharing of faith, stewardship, faith life

Organize a VBS type activity at our Cataract campus

Seek to identify someone within our membership to be the website manager for Faith’s website

Add a projector (looking at both campuses, with Cataract campus a possible priority)

More formally organized new member welcome and prospect follow-up

Two final things were discussed and decided. It was decided to change the format of the vision timeline to reflect what is currently being done, what we want to get done and how to get it done, what we would like to do in 2 years, and what would be things that would be goals in 10 years. Secondly, it was decided to move exploring outreach, in connection with requesting a summer vicar, up from 10 years to 2 years. An updated Vision Timeline will be available for you to pick up at the end of January.

FROM THE LIBRARY



Word and their Savior!

Little Visits (Volume 3) is a collection of 365 family devotions written in story form which include Bible readings, discussion questions, and prayers. These devotions reinforce faith and Bible truths centered on God's love for us through Christ. What a great way to lead your children to God's

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.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for some people to help run the livestream portion of our worship service. This would involve either helping run the PowerPoint during the service or running the audio video equipment during the service. If you would be interested in helping out in both areas, that would be great too.

What all would be asked of you?

PowerPoint –You would be asked to advance the slides on the computer that correspond with the bulletin as the worship service goes along. This would simply require the repeated pressing of a keyboard key or clicker. Training would be made available so that you would feel comfortable.

Audio/Video – This would require learning how to start, set-up, and run the projector, computer, camera, and audio equipment that is set up in back of church. However, before you dismiss this as being too difficult, there is a handbook that helps walk you through this step by step. You would not be “thrown to the wolves” right away, but would have opportunity to learn how it works before ever running it for a church service. During the first few times of running it for a worship service, others would be available to help you if you have any questions. One of the biggest things with this is the willingness and ability to arrive to worship 30 minutes early to make sure everything is set up and ready to go.

If you would be willing to help in one or both of these areas, please speak with Pastor Neumann.



Special Focus Sundays

The month of January will give us the opportunity to focus on some special and unique ministry aspects.

January 9, 2022

Jesus Cares Worship at the Cross (see page 4 for more details)

January 23, 2022

Youth Sunday – The youth of our congregation will be intimately involved in the service. This service helps keep the youth in front of us so that we keep them in our prayers and do all we can to encourage them. This service also gives them opportunity to use their gifts and abilities in service to their Savior as they become more and more involved in the worship and spiritual life of the church.

January 30, 2022

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.

Sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church, FiSH is a social group geared toward recreational activities for adults, single or married, younger or older. Invite your friends! Use it as a date night!

We'll meet usually the 2nd Saturday, for an afternoon or evening, at the BRF church building.

Our next event is January 8, BYOBG, Bring Your Own Board Game.

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



JESUS CARES MINISTRIES

Worship at the Cross

What is Jesus Cares Ministries, you ask? Jesus Cares Ministries is a ministry that shares God's Word with people who have disabilities. This month Faith Lutheran Church will be restarting our Jesus Cares Ministry with a "bang." First, we will have a guest preacher – Pastor Joel Gaertner – on Sunday, January 9.

Pastor Gaertner is the Vice President of Ministry and National Director of Jesus Cares Ministries. He is responsible for the overall ministry and developing and monitoring the Jesus Cares Ministries programs in congregations. He also serves as the chairman of the WELS Commission on Special Ministries. On January 9, he will lead us in a Worship at the Cross (WATC) service.

WATC is a simplified or adaptive worship service exclusively designed for individuals with special needs, following the basic pattern of Christian worship. The service shares the Gospel at the level of many of those with special needs. The format of the service is a PowerPoint presentation, which eliminates the challenges of having to hold a folder, hymnal or other service book. Five picture symbols give the participants a visual guide through the service.

Participants are invited to use a rhythm instrument (e.g., a maraca or similar instrument) to participate, this is especially helpful if they are unable to sing. Jesus Cares Ministries gives God's people of all ages the opportunity to serve their Savior and people with special needs.

Then, on Saturday, January 29, Faith Lutheran Church will host a Jesus Cares Gathering at the Aptiv Center, located at 720 Red Iron Road in Black River Falls. This gathering will include a Worship at the Cross, snacks and a craft.

2022

Schedule of Events

Date:	Activity:	Time:	Notes:
January 8	BYOBG	6-8 pm	Bring your Own Board Games! Maybe you got something new for Christmas J
February 12	Card games	6-8 pm	We'll play whatever card games you want J
March 12	March Movie Madness!	6-8 pm	We'll watch <u>Second Hand Lions</u> – An introverted young boy is sent by his irresponsible mother to live with his eccentric
April 9	Pegs & Jokers	6-8pm	A hybrid board & card game of strategy and luck that is highly entertaining!
May 14	Corn Hole	6-8 pm	We'll play this fun lawn game in the fellowship hall. Good practice for those upcoming graduation parties J
June 11	Dartball & Tailgate	5-7 pm	Seriously, a combo of darts & baseball – but no running or catching J We'll also tailgate in the parking lot – bring your own meat
July 9	Jackson County Beef Cookout	5-7 pm	We'll travel over to the JC Fairgrounds Bring \$8 for a great steak sandwich dinner!
August 13	Good Steward Collection	9-11 am collection	Good Steward is a resale shop in LaCrosse that supports our Luther High School. We'll collect items in the am, then sort them, enjoy lunch, and deliver them to the Good Steward in
September 10	BRF Scavenger Hunt	2-5 pm	You'll drive around BRF in teams, looking for an eclectic assortment of information (e.g. ID the 3 animal species repre-
October 8	Campfire	6-8 pm	We'll have s'mores (Diener-sized), hot dogs, etc. Bring a lawn chair
November	Chicken Foot & Chili Dump	5-7 pm	Bring your favorite chili & we'll dump them all together! Chicken Foot is a fun & easy to learn domino game.
December 10	Christmas party!	6-8 pm	Bring an appetizer to share and a white elephant gift. We'll also play Carolyn's Crazy Cork game!