



FAITH

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

January
2017
Newsletter

DEVOTION FROM PASTOR

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Galatians 3:25,26)

The turning of the calendar page to the new year is customarily accompanied by New Year's resolutions. The words which serve as the basis for this meditation remind us to make a resolution in a spiritual sense, namely, to live the new year with Christ.

With the month of January comes the long, cold days of winter. This makes necessary the need to put on an overcoat or topcoat as you leave the house each day. In doing so, you covered the garments underneath. A similar thing happened at your baptism. At that time, through the working of the Holy Spirit, you "put on" the righteousness of Jesus, which covered the garments of sin woven by your own misdeeds and also "passed on" to you by sinful parents.

Paul, in one of his letters, writes that baptism is "the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:5). Our filthy sins were washed away in the blood of Christ so that we stand pure and sinless before God. Our "dark spots" are covered by Jesus' redemptive blood. Through baptism we have adorned ourselves with the purity of our Savior.

In addition, besides baptism being a "washing" and a "renewing," it is also a "regeneration" worked by the Holy Spirit. To be regenerated is to be reborn to a new life. When a person becomes a member of the Kingdom of Grace, God expects him or her to live a life befitting their new station.

A teacher once told the members of his class who were proudly displaying their school's emblem on their sweaters that they were carrying the name and reputation of the school wherever they went. He reminded them not to do anything which would sully or disgrace the name of the college. Likewise, God urges all who have put on Christ and his righteousness also to put on a new life. He wants us to turn from sin and to use our lives to praise and honor him.

As you go forth in 2017, begin it with Christ. Now – today! – is an excellent time to resolve, with the help of the almighty God, to live every day, every hour, and every moment for Christ. Wear the robe of righteousness as it ought to be worn.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Janeen Folgers has graciously volunteered to take on the responsibilities of putting out our monthly newsletter.

If you have information you want included in the newsletters, send it to janeen.folgersx@gmail.com.

Thank you Janeen!

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2016

Attendance: Dale Jessie, Pastor Neumann, Cody Heller, Brad Rahmlow, Scott Templeton, Todd Volk, Dave Kellen, Mark Mueller.

Call to order

The meeting opened at 6:30p.m. with Pastor Neumann leading us in a short devotion reviewing Faith's Constitution Bylaws Article I-Article II.

Opening of the meeting

Overview of the Agenda-accepted as presented. MSC

Acceptance of the minutes-accepted as presented. MSC.

Elder's report-

Discussed Confirmation this year. Will be a joint examination and confirmation.

Will attempt to have a voter's meeting immediately following a service on April 30, 2017 in Cataract.

Motion made and seconded to accept Sharalyn Hartley in to membership. Approved.

Financial Report

Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$595.77 for the year. MSC to accept financial report.

Old Business

Scott has discussed the open Church Council positions with 5 gentlemen and had 3 positive responses. There will be two open positions on the Council this coming January.

Ash Wednesday Service/Seminary Choir-

Outreach committee made a recommendation to not have communion at the joint service. MSC

This service will be held at 6:30pm in BRF and will be the only service that day.

New Business

Usher Coordinator-Dale Jessie and Dave Kellen will continue as coordinators for 2017. Todd made a motion to ask the Elder's to be included in the communion assistant position, seconded by Mark. Approved.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING

The constitution of Faith Lutheran Church states: "At, or shortly following, the beginning of each quarter of the calendar year a regular meeting of the congregation's voters shall be held." January begins a new quarter, so that means it's time for another Congregational Voters' Meeting. This meeting will take place in Black River Falls on Sunday, January 22, at 1 p.m. Please do all you can to attend this meeting as we will be electing our new church council members.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will have a busy month this January. After Sunday service in Black River Falls, the youth will stick around for 5-10 minutes to practice the Psalm they will be singing on the Youth Sunday.

We will meet for one of our regular meetings on Sunday, January 8, from 2-3:30 p.m.

Youth Sunday will be Sunday, January 22.

We will be heading up to Action City in Eau Claire for a youth outing in the afternoon of Sunday, January 29.

Mark your calendars!

SAVE THE DATE TO SAY "CHEESE!"



It's time to update our church photo directory and board. Photos will be taken by Majesta Heller on January 7 and 8. All photos will be taken at the Black River Falls location. On Saturday, January 7, Majesta will be at the church from 10 am to 2 pm. On Sunday, January 8 she will take photos after the 8 am worship service for those that aren't staying for Bible study and then she'll continue to take them after Bible study and Sunday school until noon. You may continue to use your current church photo if you have one.

Note from the Editor:

As Christians, we struggle daily with temptations of this world. By keeping Christ at the center of our hearts and lives, we can dismiss the temptations of this world and remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ. Sometimes reminders are needed as to why we believe and worship the way we do. This series of articles from the website, www.wels.net, will explain why we believe what we believe and why we teach what we teach. Below are the first 2 of 29 articles in this series. Please take some time to read the bible verses associated with each article to further your understanding.

What the Bible and Lutherans Teach

Introduction

Nearly 500 years ago, the Christian church was corrupted by many false teachings. A man named Martin Luther led people back to the teachings of the Bible. His work, and that of his friends, is called the Reformation. Through Luther God restored the church to purity of doctrine and a new life of faith in Christ.

The doctrines of the Lutheran Church are not new. They are the teachings of the Bible. Thus the Lutheran Church is not a new church. It is not a sect or cult. It is a church whose teaching is based on the words written by the prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles of the New Testament. The Bible tells us about Jesus Christ.

The teachings of the Lutheran Church are those of the original, ancient church of the apostles and early Christians.

1. The Bible

The Bible and Lutherans teach that the Bible is the true word of God. It is inspired by the Holy Spirit. This means that God breathed into the writers the exact thoughts and words they were to write. As a result every statement in the Bible is the truth. One part of the Bible explains another part. It is the only guideline for the faith and life of Christians. We are to read and study it diligently. It clearly teaches all we need to know in order to obtain our eternal salvation.

2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:15; Luke 11:28; John 5:39

2. Triune God

The Bible and Lutherans teach that there is only one true God. This God is invisible, holy, eternal, and has all power and wisdom. In the Bible God reveals himself as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is why he is called “Triune.” These three persons in one God are all God. They are equal in power, glory, and in every other quality. To deny or ignore one person is to deny all of them. It is God who created, redeemed, and sanctified us.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 5:23; Genesis 1:1; 1 John 2:2; Romans 15:13

Source: www.wels.net/about-wels/what-we-believe

I lift up my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Psalm 121: 1-2

Greetings from the warm heart of Africa!

I read somewhere that some have called Malawi the “Switzerland of Africa” due to its hilly terrain. That description makes me smile, because I appreciate hills and mountains. To me, they display a part of the majesty of God’s creation.

Malawi is indeed hilly and there are mountains on the horizon. Though it is lovely to see, it is not so lovely when you’re learning to drive a manual transmission vehicle. Never before have I spotted an incline in the road and felt butterflies about whether I’ll be able to maneuver the vehicle without rolling backwards.

Each time I start the truck for another driving session, my mind comes back to this passage. Though the hills in Lilongwe are testing my mastery (or lack thereof) of the clutch, in ancient times, the hills provided hiding places for thieves, dangerous animals and others intending harm to travelers passing by.

These days our “hills” in life take many forms. Perhaps this December you are facing a mountain of debt or a crippling financial loss. Maybe you have been ill and you feel as though getting out of bed is as difficult as scaling Kilimanjaro. Are the many miles that separate you from your loved ones crushing your cheer this Christmas?

Then remember the hill called Calvary that Jesus willingly climbed to suffer the consequences of all of our sins. When you feel that you are rolling backwards and can’t make any headway, look to our Savior who burst out from the grave and ascended into heaven. Jesus knows the peaks and valleys of our lives and He cares. He cares so much about each of us that “even the very hairs of your head are all numbered” (Matthew 10:30).

I pray you enjoy a peaceful and joyful Christmas, secure in the comfort and knowledge that the One who made the hills is also the One who will grant passage through all of our “hills”.

Your sister in Christ,

Amanda Artz, Clinic Administrator-in-Training

Lutheran Mobile Clinic
