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We're on the Web!
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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.

and more opportunities to share the word of salvation. What an amazing account to read and support! Jackson writes "Due to the increase in institutional deliveries, we are currently experiencing a challenge that an officer may work all night conducting a delivery and be expected to work during the day which may be burdening and reduce productivity." Even though many of the employees live on the property or nearby, they are working or on call 24/7. The Lord put a seed of service, however, in the hearts of three individuals who are members of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa. Tactiful Simweeleba (Clinic Officer), Future Baloyi (RN), Sanford Mulundika (Lab tech) are currently pursuing education certifications/degrees so they can begin work with Jackson at our clinic. Each is receiving funds for their education through the Althea Sauer Scholarship. While this fund was established to provide funding for American nurses to work in Zambia, we are thrilled that funds are now provided to members of the LCCA in Zambia and Malawi to further the work of the clinics and provide a good spiritual foundation for the national staff.

What if there were no Christmas message? We give thanks for our missionaries, LCCA pastors, and our clinic staff who proclaim this message to those who come seeking strength and healing of body and soul.

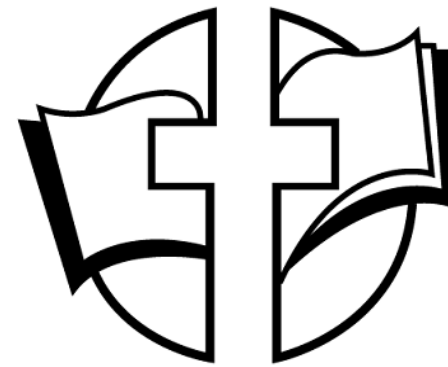
Even though you might not be able to go to Africa, we are all given the opportunity to "hold up the prophet's arms" and provide those in the fields with our prayers and support. We have everything we truly need here in North America and give thanks for the opportunity to share some of our blessings with those who have so little. The Central Africa Medical Mission is thankful to each of you who responded to our needs this past year with your prayers and support.

"Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison and did not help you? He will reply "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

Matthew 25:44-45

We wish you a happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas!

May the Lord grant you continued blessings of good health and prosperity in the coming year.



The Messenger

The Messenger

January 2018

New Year—No Fear

To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

(Isaiah 9:6—NIV84)

Happy New Year! That's a common and appropriate greeting this time of year. But, the very fact that we feel the need to express the wish that the new year be a **happy one** underscores the uncertainty that faces us this year. Will 2018 be a happy year? What will happen with our health? What will happen at work? What will happen with our savings, our children, our loved ones, our plans? Much is uncertain as we enter a new year.

While there is much we do not know about the new year, this much we know for sure—we know who is in control of all the things that are unknown to us. It's the child born to us and whose birth we just celebrated at Christmas—our

Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah says, "the government will be on his shoulders." With those words, Isaiah is telling us that the baby born of Mary has been given all authority in heaven and on earth to guide, direct, and control all that happens on earth and in the lives of his people.

Who better to be entrusted with the responsibility of ruling our universe? The child born to us is God's one and only Son—the all-powerful, present everywhere, all-wise, eternally begotten Son.

But he is also true man—born of a woman into this world as a baby with a body and mind that developed and grew.

That makes him the perfect Savior—one who could live under obligation to the law that we had broken and obey it perfectly, one who could die as our substitute on Calvary's cross and by

doing so take away our sins.

That also makes him the perfect ruler. As true God he has the ability to control all things. As a true human being who was tempted in every way just as we are, he is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses (Hebrews 4:15).

It is this Jesus, who reconciled us to God by his death on the cross and rose to life, who sits at God's right hand ruling all things. He watches over us day and night. He will protect us from every evil. He will be with us wherever the new year may take us.

So while much is uncertain, this we know: The new year will be a blessed year for us in which all things, even bad things, God will work for our eternal good (Romans 8:28).

Inside this issue:

Council Meeting Summary	2
Meetings this month	3
FiSH Calendar of Events	4
Library Information	5
10 Things...	5
CAMM Update	6-8
Bible Study Opportunities	7

Special points of interest:

* If you haven't heard about or considered the **Marriage Enrichment Getaway Weekend** yet, please take time to read through the information in this newsletter.

Council Meeting Summary

Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes *Summary*
December 18, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 6:00p.m. with Pastor Neumann leading us in a short devotion. The lesson was part of a series of devotions based on different terms of the Bible that are rich in meaning, heard often, and often not fully explained. Today's Term was FAITH.

Present were: Pastor Neumann, Dave Kellen, Jerry Kirchman, Brad Rahmlow, Dale Jessie, Grady Severson, Cody Heller, Scott Templeton.

ELDER'S REPORT

Transfer Out (to St. John, Sparta): Ben & Jo Dee Leisso (Logan)

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor reviewed a statistical report for the month of November.

Ministry and Worship

Youth Sunday January 28th, 2018.

Youth Rally on June 26-29, 2018—3 youth have committed and 2 other possible attendees.

Luther Update-Upcoming discussion on use of the chapel at Luther High School.

A individual in the Black River Falls community called concerning doing community service at our congregation. The Council discussed and agreed that to facilitate such an activity would be too difficult to coordinate and oversee.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$5,264.55 through the end of November. It was moved and supported to accept the financial report for November, 2017.

Continued on page 3

BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Rahmlow	1/01
Candy Janke	1/01
Nicole Stelter	1/11
Cheyenne Bue	1/11
Jerry Haas	1/14
Abby Mueller	1/15



Jesody Heller	1/19
Charlene Fisher	1/25
Laura Mueller	1/26
Ella Rahmlow	1/28
Cathy Morgan	1/30

ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Dawn Manske 1/24



Bible Study Opportunity

The Bible Study 5 “Solas” of the Reformation has begun in Black River Falls, but it is never too late to join us.

This study will begin on Sunday, January 7 in Cata-ract. You are invited to come learn what Sola Scrip-tura; Sola Fide; and Sola

Gratia mean...and come find out which other two are included.

You will also be able to find this study on our website. Each portion we complete will be posted and can be found under the Bible Study tab on the home page.



New Life in Christ

When was the last time you reviewed the basic teachings of the Bible and how those teachings applied to your life? Do you have

questions about Communion, Baptism, prayer, marriage, money, parenting, or death? This class covers each of those topics, plus much more.

This class is for anyone and everyone. It is an introduction to the Christian faith for those who have not been confirmed or would like to

Bible Information Class

join Faith, as well as a review for those who have.

This class begins Thursday, January 11th, at 10 a.m. in Black River Falls.

Keep an eye on the bulletin for the possibility of another class being offered Thursday evenings.

lenges. Both ladies show God's grace and compassion to others through their faith and service. When Zambia and Malawi implemented requirements to maintain staffing 24 hours a day, 7 days of week, the LMC was unable to meet that requirement in Malawi. That resulted in the termination of payroll subsidies and putting a huge burden on expenses. The ladies have worked extremely hard to rethink services and adjust expenses whenever possible.

We are also blessed with Jackson Kalekwa and the staff at the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Centre in Zambia. When Zambia implemented the 24/7 requirement, this staff has been able to comply. Jackson recently provided this summary of activities: Monday (general clinic), Tuesday (antenatal care, meeting with traditional birth attendants, outreach services), Wednesday (general clinic/male circumcision clinic), Thursday (under 5 clinic, postnatal care, outreach services, general clinic, diabetic clinic), Friday (general clinic), Saturday (hypertensive clinic/staff meetings/treatment of any other diseases and emergencies/deliveries), and Sunday (treatment of any other diseases and emergencies/deliveries). Jackson also noted that every day Monday through Friday is HIV counseling/testing and initiation of HIV treatments. Infant deliveries can happen any day and any hour. Every Thursday is a different meeting or Bible study. In addition to these duties, the current staff of seven provide school health services to seven schools. The Lord blesses the clinic with more people

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Lutheran Mobile Clinic (Camm) Thanksgiving/Christmas 2017

*Come, O long expected Jesus, Born to set your people free
From our sins and fears release us By your death on Calvary.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope to all the earth impart
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
CW 6*



In the book *Dear Mister Missionary*, E.H. Wendland writes about an annual Christmas letter that he truly looked forward to receiving each year while in Africa. One year, about two weeks before Christmas, an envelope with angels and shepherds on the outside arrived. Upon opening the envelope, he found a piece of stationery with angels and shepherds on it, but it was blank. Missionary Wendland “did not want to pass on this opportunity to let his old friend know he had shattered his faith in him.” His friend kindly responded with his opportunity to turn this oversight into victory with the following message: “What if there were no Christmas message?” (1978, 53-54)

What if the people living in Zambia and Malawi did not hear the message of Christ’s birth? Thanks to the staff of the Lutheran Mission Rural Health Centre in Zambia and Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi, the people in those countries do hear the Christmas message. Read how they describe the blessings and challenges for 2017 as witness to the Lord’s work in action.

When the people come to our clinics, they hear the gospel message of salvation. This is our mission – to provide support for gospel outreach. According to Amanda Artz, our current clinic administrator for the Lutheran Mobile Clinic (Malawi), “The prevalence of witchcraft and superstition woven so deeply into Malawian culture (even among Christians) can be quite frustrating at times” and it is one of the hardest challenges. We rejoice that the people hear the message of salvation and God’s healing power while at clinic. We pray that the Holy Spirit works in their hearts so they do not fall back into witchcraft beliefs. Along with witchcraft, there is widespread corruption across many levels of Malawian government. The devil works hard in these countries of despair and need. Amanda writes that “the Lord seems to put the right people in the path of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in order for us to be able to conduct business and accomplish our tasks.” We give thanks.

2017 has been a year of good rains for Malawi. Such a wonderful blessing. Crops are planted and harvests with good yield are expected. A pleasant surprise is that the rains did not produce the usual malaria outbreak. Amanda Oswald, our nurse-in-charge of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic, writes “We have seen significantly lower numbers this past year. Because malaria was reasonable, we did not have to purchase as many malaria testing kits or malaria treatment.” This is a blessing both for LMC and for the Malawians.

Power outages continue to be a critical challenge in both countries. While Zambia experienced long spans of power outages the past several years, Malawi was spared until 2017. This year daily outages of 10-16 hours were common. A couple years ago, Alison Westphal served as the clinic administrator and worked hard to develop a plan for solar panels and a generator. Through generous donors, solar panels were installed and a generator was also connected. The Lord is good. He ensures all things happen for the good of those who love and serve him. Without the generator, vaccines and medications would not last. The generator is working hard and allows LMC the ability to build trust with those who walk to our clinics trusting to receive medicines to heal them. The blessing of the generator is, however, joined with the challenge of maintenance and cost to operate. Because they have so little power, the generator runs many hours. The fuel used by the generator is added to the overall fuel costs. Needless to say, fuel is a concern. As a mobile clinic, we depend on fuel to take our staff and supplies out to the villages.

Camm is blessed with very faithful workers in both Malawi and Zambia. Our expats, Amanda Oswald and Amanda Artz, are good stewards of all that is given to them. Living and working in another culture has many chal-

Continued on the bottom of the next page

SPECIAL REPORTS

The council was reminded about the Marriage Enrichment Event-March 9th-11th

OLD BUSINESS

- Church computer - Pastor will continue looking for a computer to replace the current one.
- Council candidates -Brad Rahmlow, Dave Kellen and Garrett Jessie have accepted nomination for church council.

*“A Healthy Marriage Seminar”
March 9-11, 2018*

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with Pastor leading us in the Lord’s Prayer. The next Church Council meeting will be at BRF at 6:00 p.m. on Jan 15th, 2018. The next Congregational meeting will be at BRF on January 28th 1:00pm.

Recorded by Brad Rahmlow

MEETINGS THIS MONTH

Faith Teachers Meeting

The Faith teachers will meet Sunday, January 7, from 10:30-12 in the BRF building.

Property Committee Meeting

The Property Committee will meet Sunday, January 14, at 6 p.m. in the BRF building.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council meets Monday, January 15, at 6 p.m. in the BRF building.

Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include the Cabin Fever Chili & Soup Challenge. Our meeting will take place Sunday, January 21, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.

*Whatever you do,
work at it with all
your heart, as
working for the Lord,
not for men.
Colossians 3:23*

Voters Meeting

In 1 Corinthians 12, we are reminded that all believers make up the body of Christ, and each member has work to do. Voting men of the congregation, part of your work is the work that is done at our quarterly voters’ meetings. Our next meeting is Sunday, January 28th. It will be at 1 p.m. in Cataract. We will elect the new members of the church council at this meeting.



2018 Schedule of Events

Sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church, FiSH is a social group geared toward recreational activities for adults, single or married, younger or older. Faith Lutheran Church's mission is to help people stay rooted in Christ and reach out with his Word.

Date:	Activity:	Time:	Place:
Thursday, January 18	Board & Card Games	6-8 pm	Faith Lutheran Church BRF
Saturday, March 17	Trivia night, including Reuben sandwiches & Shamrock shakes	5-8 pm	Faith Lutheran Church BRF
Saturday, April 21	Tour Floating Gardens LLC aquaponics facility, eat lunch at Top Dawgs	10:30 am - 1:30 pm	Meet in church parking lot, then carpool to Mindoro
Wednesday, August 15	Lawn games	6-8 pm	Faith Lutheran Church BRF
Saturday, September 8	Pirates Cove Adventure Golf	10 am - 4 pm	Meet in church parking lot, then carpool to Wisconsin Dells
Saturday, October 13	BRF Scavenger Hunt	1 - 4 pm	Faith Lutheran Church BRF & BRF community
Friday, November 9	Board & Card Games	6-8 pm	Faith Lutheran Church BRF
Thursday, December 6	Christmas party with appetizers and games	6-8 pm	Faith Lutheran Church BRF

Pastoral Advisor – Pastor Joel Neumann
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Group Contact – Nicole Stelter
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E-mail: steltnic@hotmail.com



ATTENTION—NEXT FiSH FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY

The FiSH group (Faith's Social Harbor) invites adults for an evening of games! We'll meet **Thursday, January 18, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the BRF building location. Feel free to bring your favorite board or card game to share with the group. This is a great opportunity for you to invite a friend, relative, or coworker to an event at church that is not a worship service.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at the BRF location has devotion books written especially for families with young children.

- Little Visits With God
- Family Devotions
- Laugh, Tickle, Hug, Pray
- At Home With Jesus

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.



The money comes from offerings received in envelopes from our special services. Special services are simply those that are not the regular Sunday services. Services like Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve/Day, Ascension, Mid-week Lent, etc. Also included would be the very first envelope in your box—the Special Mission Offering envelope.

What is received in these envelopes is what we send in as our CMO. If more than our commitment is received in these envelopes, we send what is over and above our commitment. If less than our commitment is received, we make up the difference from the rest of the offerings in order that we meet our commitment.

Now you know.

10 Things You Didn't Know (or might not know) About Your Church

Starting today, and then continuing through the next 9 months, the newsletter will contain a short article under the heading above. The goal of this section is to keep you as well informed as possible as to the whats, whys, and hows of your congregation.

1. Did you know that our congregation sends an offering to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod every

year? We call this our Congregational Mission Offering (CMO). For the year 2017, we committed to give as an offering from our congregation \$15,450.

However, you may have noticed that in your box of offering envelopes there is no envelope that has a CMO distinction. So, how do we budget for it and where does the money come from?



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 Pastor Neumann either in person or at the following email address: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com. For February's newsletter, a new individual will take over the organization and publication of the newsletter. Please keep an eye on the announcements in the bulletin.

Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month. January 20 is the deadline for the February, 2018 newsletter.