



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.



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

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. You can also contact Pastor Neumann either in person or at the following email address: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com. Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.

Unchanging Hope for an Ever-changing World

This year in our monthly articles we consider favorite verses from the Bible.

This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Hebrews 13:8**

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

As one year ends and another begins, columnists and commentators look back at the previous year. What changed? What stayed the same? Whose passing did we mourn? Whose new arrival did we celebrate?

At the same time, we make predictions about the coming year. What will the new year hold? What will change? What will stay the same?

As fun and exciting as it may be to reminisce about the past and dream about the future, it can also be a little sad and scary. Things will likely never be what they used to be. Loved ones who have passed away don't come back. Jobs that are lost seldom reappear quickly. Even when broken dreams and broken relationships are repaired, they rarely return to their former glory. Many times our experiences in an ever-changing world are difficult.



Yet we sometimes look at our lives and see a need for change. Many of us make New Year's resolutions: "I'm going to exercise more and eat less." "I'm going to save more and spend less." "I'm going to love more and hate less." But too often, our good intentions disappear, and only poor excuses remain.

No matter what (or who) changes from one year to the next, there is one who never changes—Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He always exists, from before time, throughout the course of time, and at the end of time for eternity. Jesus loved you be-

fore you were born. He loves you today, and he will always love you.

That's what Christmas is all about. Jesus loved you so much that he wanted you to experience his unchanging love forever. So he came into the world to live up to God's perfect demands in your place. He took the punishment for your imperfection and gave you the reward for his perfection. That reward is an eternity far away from this world's sorrows and disappointments—the unchanging peace and joy of a place called heaven.

Jesus—the same yesterday, today, and forever—promises to be with us, love us, care for us, and give perfect peace with God to all who trust in him. Only Jesus offers unchanging hope to an ever-changing world.

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY
DECEMBER 16, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a devotion focused on Engaging Members in Ministry.
- Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Jerry Kirchman, Dave Spaude, Grady Severson, Brad Markhardt

ELDER'S REPORT

- Dave Spaude proposed adding a clause to the church constitution that would allow for the roll of a deaconess within the elder's committee. The Church council recommended that this change be brought to the voters at the next congregational meeting in January. Moved; Seconded, Consensus (MSC)

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of November
 - He spent some extra time updating the council on outreach calls he had made – mentioning the blessings the Lord was giving as some who have been visited have joined us in worship
- Pastor informed the church council that the Ladies Aid from our Cataract location once again made cookie plates and the ladies took these cookies to neighbors with a Christmas invite taped to the plate
- Pastor informed the council that the Ladies Aid gave \$50 as a Christmas gift to Friends of China
- Pastor updated the council that through three different special offerings, Christian Life Resources received \$1,698 as a gift offering from our congregation in 2019. This total is the result of the Change for Life Baby Bottles collected in February; the Change for Life Baby Bottles collected in November; the door offering at November's Mission Festival; and a gift given by the Ladies Aid.
- Pastor informed us that dates have been chosen so that the Equipping Christian Witnesses Campaign from Martin Luther College can be highlighted. A door offering for this campaign will be had on February 9.
- A representative from Luther High contacted Faith asking if they could come and give an update on the happenings at Luther High. Council concluded that would be good, so long as it could be done at both locations.
- Red Creek Elementary contacted Pastor again asking if Faith in Black River Falls could be a meeting location in the event of an active shooter at the school. Council had already approved this so long as all details could be ironed out. It looks like it will be a go, pending some paperwork.
- Pastor informed council that the WELS International Youth Rally will be coming up in 2020 and that it should be discussed in connection with the budget.

tion (in bold italics) is as follows. "The Elder's Committee shall consist of three to five members including the chairman, who shall be appointed by the church council. The chairman will be a member of the Council. The remaining members shall be appointed by the committee chairman, ***including a deaconess.***"

LOF Movie Night

The Ladies of Faith will be having a movie night January 13th at Karen Noard's house. She lives at 813 Pierce St., Black River Falls. Please park in the the yard in the alley behind her house. (She doesn't use her front door.)

They will be watching "The Overcomer." Movie begins at 6pm.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Rahmlow	1/1
Candy Janke	1/1
Chris Bedell	1/5
Cheyenne Bue	1/11
Dale Timm	1/13
Jerry Haas	1/14
Jesody Heller	1/19
Avery Rahmlow	1/21
Joe Southwood	1/24
Charlene Fisher	1/25
Laura Mueller	1/26
Ella Rahmlow	1/28
Cayson Fatla	1/30
Cathy Morgan	1/30

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

Chris + Dawn Manske 1/24

MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

Ladies Aid Potluck & Gift Exchange

Thursday—January 9 @ 12:30 p.m. in Cataract

Ad Hoc Child Protection

Saturday—January 11 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls

FiSH Cards

Saturday—January 11 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Outreach Meeting

Sunday – January 12 @ 12:30 pm in Black River Falls

Elders Meeting

Monday – January 13 @ 6:30 pm in Cataract

LOF Movie night

Monday January 13 at 6pm Karen Noards home

Vision Timeline Meeting

Tuesday—January 14 @ 6:30 p.m. in Black River Falls

Youth Group

Sunday—January 19 @ 1 p.m. in Black River Falls

Church Council Meeting

Monday—January 20 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Congregational Meeting

Sunday – January 26 @ 1 pm in Black River Falls

Faith Teachers Meeting

Sunday – January 26 @ 6 pm in Black River Falls



FINANCIAL REPORT

- Brad presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$5,872.31 through the end of November. MSC to accept financial report for November, 2019

SPECIAL REPORTS

- Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt
- The vision timeline will continue to be reviewed by the outreach committee and the church council on January 14th at 6:30 in BRF

OLD BUSINESS

- There are 6 people that have been selected from the congregation to be asked if they would like to be considered for one of two open positions for church council.

NEW BUSINESS

- Council will make the recommendation at the January congregational meeting to make a policy that states that after 10 years of service in the ministry the pastor's vacation time will increase to 3 weeks (Sundays) of vacation, less than 10 years of service would receive 2 weeks of vacation. MSC

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

The next Council Meeting will be held in BRF, January 20 at 6 pm

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include evaluating Christmas Crafts for Kids, discussing the concert in the park and lots more. Our meeting will take place Sunday, January 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.

YOUTH GROUP – NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME

The Youth Group will meet Sunday, January 19 in Black River Falls. Please note that we will meet an hour earlier this month. We will start at 1 pm and plan to be done at 2:30 pm.



CHURCH CONSTITUTION ADDITION

Article X of our Faith Lutheran Church Constitution deals with Repeals and

Amendments of the Bylaws our constitution. Under this article it states: Any and all Bylaws may be repealed or amended by a majority vote of the voting members present at any quarterly meeting, provided that public notice of this proposed action shall have been given in accordance with Article I, Section 2 of these Bylaws and provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted in writing to the church council for its study and recommendation.

At the council meeting in December, the Elders Committee recommended an addition to Article VI Committees of the Church: Section 4. Elder's Committee; 4.1. The sugges-



Library Corner

Do you think of yourself as an agent of grace? Checkout the book, *Agents of Grace - The People in David's Life and in Yours* by Robert J. Koester from our church library located in the fellowship hall at our BRF location. You'll find it in the Bible Aids section. This book focuses on God's "agents of grace" in David's life that molded him into the man and leader he came to be. Each chapter helps you think about the agents of grace in your life and how you may be an agent of grace for someone else.

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





Future Baloyi



Future Baloyi is a 29-year-old woman, born into a family of five (5), two girls and three boys. Her father is the Pastor to one of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa congregations in Lusaka. Future was the recipient of the Althea Sauer educational scholarship. She completed her diploma in Nursing studies this past summer and following her graduation joined our staff at the Lutheran Rural Medical Centre at Mwembezhi . This is her story, in her words:

“I would like to share my sad side of my life that God has eventually turned into happiness. I completed my grade twelve (12) education in 2009 at Mumbwa High School in Central Province of Zambia and after the completion of school, I struggled to further my studies due to the general family challenges to make ends meet at home and because of the situation, I ended up getting married in 2011. We had a happy marriage in our early days but, a year later in 2012 after giving birth to a baby boy, my husband started mistreating me, he mistreated me physically, psychologically, spiritually and emotionally. He got into a habit of physically beating me up almost on daily bases. I lost the peace, lost the joy and I had no hope for the future of my life. The worst part was when I discovered that he was cheating on me with other women, I feared for my life especially where sexually transmitted infections are concern and to make matters worse, he became more violent such that I could not withstand the situation.

One day I had a phone conversation with one of my uncles staying in Kabwe, the other side of Central Province. My uncle asked me to go and stay with him so as to try and settle or reconcile the marriage as elders of the two families. To the surprise of all concerned people, my husband married another woman within the few days of my arriving at my uncle’s place. While staying in Kabwe, life was not easy, I had to go back to my parents in Lusaka.

Life in Lusaka was not easy for both myself and my son, the father (ex-husband) could not provide anything to the son for upkeep and the general welfare at home (parents home) was not been easy, I failed my son and family, life was indeed very tough.

One day I asked Mum if I could borrow from her 50 Kwacha (\$4) so that I could start some business, when I got the money, I started selling bananas and oranges on the street. Sometimes, I had to walk from place to place, door to door in search of customers, this could start early in the morning till after 17:00hrs or even later than that time. It was not easy but, I had to do this for six (6) months then my uncle in Kabwe called to find out how life was and he was disturbed to hear that I sell on the streets, he called me again and this time I left my son behind with my parents.

In Kabwe my uncle encouraged me to go back to school, I refused and I didn’t like the idea because I felt there was no need, I had lost my hope then, my uncle started encouraging me with the word of God and this was both morning and evening, then I gave in and accepted the ideas of school.

I got the money I made from the business and paid for my General Certificate Exams (GCE) then started going to school, this move was not an easy one but, I thank God for the people around me that kept encouraging me. Uncle had to finish paying other school balance, this time around my hope was in Christ even though life was not easy, my prayer everyday was that God would give me a new chapter in this life.

One day I met with Pastor Daniel Sargent who encouraged me to study hard for the GCE exams especially in Biology and motivated me that he could help with the scholarship through the Lutheran Medical Mission to study as a nurse. This gave me a strong reason to study hard and true to the efforts, I got good results. I informed Pastor Sargent and thank God he did not hesitate to recommend me for the scholarship to study as a nurse.” [The Sauer Family scholarship is administered by the CAMM Stateside committee. We are grateful that Pastor Sargent recommended Future for the scholarship. She was a great candidate and we are blessed to have her as part of our Mwembezhi staff!]

“In 2016 I was enrolled in school for the study in Registered Nursing at diploma level and while at school, I worked very hard knowing very well of my background and I did very well. Lutheran Medical Mission in Zambia supported my school and graduation in 2019. God also provided employment at the Lutheran Mission Rural Clinic in Mwembezhi, Zambia. I sing songs of praise to God for what He has made me to see, indeed I glorify Him because through that experience He taught me to serve others before me. Central Africa Medical Mission are People whom I may not have meet in Person apart from Pastor Sargent, our Clinic Administrator Mr. Alisad Banda, I would say thank you so much for the life changing support that was given to me. May it be so to many now and in the future.

God is indeed great and in every situation we may be passing through he is still with us, Remember Romans 8:28 ‘We know that ALL things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.’ Friends never lose hope. believe in God - only God can change our situations in life and God alone has the answer to our destiny.”

Future’s story shows us how the prayers and generosity of our supporters and, in Future’s case the Sauer family, affect not only our patients but the lives of our staff. Future was blessed with a family that helped her spiritually at a time when her life was hard, and she had no hope for the future. While this is not a typical Christmas letter, Future’s story reminds us that Jesus came into the world to not only bring us hope but the assurance of everlasting life through Him.

Wishing you a very blessed Christmas, from all of us in here in Africa.

Alisad Banda

Clinic Administrator Mwembezhi Lutheran Rural Health Centre Zambia

GO FISH!

The FiSH group (Faith’s Social Harbor) invites adults to play some cards on Saturday, January 11, 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.

