

Anniversaries

Pastor Joel + Rachel Neumann	7/6
Dale + Linda Jessie	7/12
Ray + Judy Sommers	7/21
Jim + Mary Christie	7/21

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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Black River Falls, WI 54615
(mailing address)

N6774 Acorn Ave.
Sparta, WI 54656

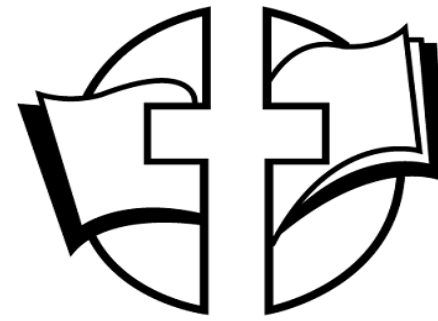
Phone: 715-284-0772
Pastor: Joel Neumann

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



Birthdays

Denis Janke	7/1
Jenny Goetzka	7/1
Mikah Huggett	7/3
Luke Spaude	7/3
Wendy Mlsna	7/9
Arianna Kiesow	7/10
Brad Rahmlow	7/10
Gerhart Sasman	7/21
Nancy Templeton	7/11
Ken Diener	7/15
Garrett Jessie	7/17
Brent Bacon	7/18
Noah Neumann	7/23
Karen Yahnke	7/24
Jeff Nicolai	7/28



The Messenger

July 2021

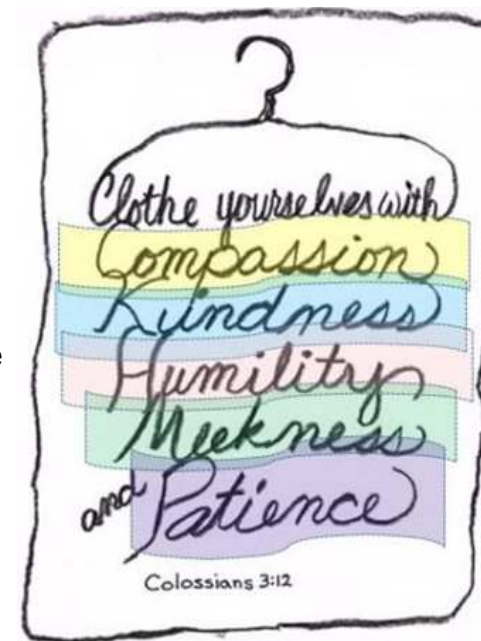
Dress yourself with...Compassion

Every so often our news will carry a story about a school struggling with the question of going to mandatory uniforms. It's easy to understand the logic. Some of the most respected people in our society are those who wear uniforms.

Proponents of school uniforms could probably produce studies that show that students are more likely to respect themselves and each other when wearing uniforms, too.

On the other hand, we also hear stories about people bringing disgrace to the uniforms they wear: criminal charges against professional ballplayers, corruption in police departments, and sexual abuse by clergy. Examples such as these indicate that just putting on a uniform does not make a person better.

Listen to the apostle Paul describe a different kind of clothing: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience" (Colossians 3:12).



Notice that Paul isn't just describing a change in outward appearances. Nor is he suggesting that we can somehow will ourselves into better behavior.

We don't earn the right to wear the clothes Paul describes. They come from being loved by God.

It all starts with the compassion Jesus had that moved him to lay down his life for the world.

Believing that Jesus loved us enough to die for us is what makes us one of his people. It also is what produces a change in our attitude.

As God's dearly loved people, we want to reflect the kind of compassion Jesus showed. That is something that will be as plain to see as any uniform.

Real changes in our lives won't happen just because we put on a district-mandated or color-coordinated outfit. That clothing just changes us on the outside. The inner change begins when we are clothed with God's love.

As we worship and study God's Word together we learn more about God's great compassion.

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. Or send information to Laura Mueller at muellerlaura@hotmail.com. The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.

GET READY FOR BIBLE SOCCER CAMP

- ⇒ Faith Lutheran Church will once again have Bible Soccer Camp this summer. It will be held Monday to Wednesday, August 9 – August 11, in Black River Falls (*come each day or some of the days*).
- ⇒ The Bible Soccer Camp is for children ages 4-13.
- ⇒ The Bible Soccer Camp will be held from 9 a.m.– 12 p.m. each day.
- ⇒ There is no cost for this Bible Soccer Camp. Each child will receive a t-shirt and water bottle.
- ⇒ The Bible Soccer Camp activities will include physical training and Bible studies.
- ⇒ Each child should have appropriate footwear.
- ⇒ There will also be snack time, craft time, and music time.
- ⇒ The Bible Soccer Camp registration and waiver can be found online at www.faithwels.com or in the gathering area. Questions? Call 284-0772.



He did not have to hesitate to talk this way. He knew that the Corinthians were able to display and were desirous of displaying an unselfish, self-sacrificing love in their giving, because they had already come to experience Christ's love for them.

"You **know** the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ," Paul says. The Corinthians didn't merely know about Christ's grace, they had experienced it. They knew that Christ, who as the eternal Son of God was from all eternity rich beyond human comprehension, became poor and beggarly so that the Corinthians might be richly garbed in the robe of his righteousness, their sins fully covered, the riches of life with God guaranteed to them now and fully in the heaven to come.

It is on this basis, the certainty that Christ's redeeming love surrounded the Corinthians, that Paul can now encourage them to love in return by bringing to completion their offering for the Jerusalem church. All motivation, to be truly Christian, must have its root in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So, why do Christians give? Because Christ has given to us. His perfect life and sacrificial death in our place has won for us the forgiveness of sins and a right standing with God. Through a Spirit-produced faith we have personally received forgiveness and a new standing with God as one of his saints. We have become a new creation. We have been brought out of darkness into light, out of death into life. In this new life, as we look at our God-given financial resources, our faith response is: "Take my silver and my gold; Not a mite would I withhold" (Christians Worship 469:4).

AUGUST BIBLE STUDY

Potpourri is defined as "*a mixture of things.*"

Starting in August, we will have a potpourri of Bible Classes after our late worship service in Black River Falls. The studies will last anywhere between 30-60 minutes. We'll be done by noon for sure. These five Bible Studies will be:

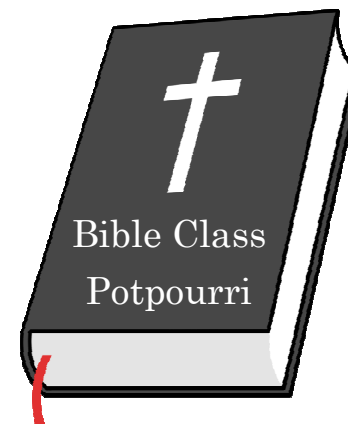
August 1 – ***Psalm 73 – Why Do the Wicked Prosper While the Godly Suffer?***

August 8 – ***The Biblical Concept of Hell***

August 15 – ***The Biblical Concept of Heaven***

August 22 – ***The Great "I Am"***

August 29 – ***Hey, God, What About Angels?***



LIBRARY CORNER

In the Devotions section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at our BRF location is the book, *Devotions for the Chronologically Gifted*. These devotions apply to the lives of those of you with years of wisdom. If you have seen a lot, learned a lot, and given a lot, you will discover how God is using you right now to fulfill His special plan for you.

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



JUBILEE DEBT REDUCTION OFFERING

WHY DO CHRISTIANS GIVE?

When we ask this question, we are talking about motivation. Webster’s dictionary defines motivation as “something that causes a person to act.” Every activity of a person is motivated, but not every activity is correctly motivated. This is also true of giving. It is not difficult to come up with a list of faulty ways to motivate oneself or others to give:

“How can you refuse to give? It’s your Christian duty!”

“You can’t let your church down.”

“If you don’t give, the budget won’t be met.”

“You’ll feel good if you give.”

“The more you give the more you’ll get.”

“People will respect you more the more you give.”

“You ought to be more thankful for what God has done for you.”

Giving that is motivated by the desire for personal gain, recognition, or that comes from less than a cheerful heart is giving that is not properly motivated. Jesus said, *“Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven”* (Matthew 6:1). In the major stewardship-of-giving section in the Bible, 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, Paul clearly states, *“Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver”* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Only the Holy Spirit can work in us this cheerful giving, and only through the gospel. That means that the gospel – the good news of Jesus – is the only true power supply for properly motivated giving. This is brought out clearly in two passages from 2 Corinthians. The first one is 2 Corinthians 5:14,15: *“For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”*

The word “for” ties this passage in with what came before it. In the previous verse Paul had been talking about the way he has sought to carry out his ministry. He had labored so intensely that the same charge had been hurled at him that his Savior had faced, namely, that he was out of his mind. His reply was, *“If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God”* (2 Corinthians 5:13). “For,” he says, *“Christ’s love compels us.”*

Paul says, “I am carrying out my ministry so wholeheartedly because the love Christ has for me compels me.” Christ’s love was the controlling force in Paul’s life. It was that love, as expressed in Christ’s substitutionary death in the place of not just Paul but in the place of all, in the place of everyone in the whole world, that compelled Paul, that impelled him and his associates to *“no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.”* The love Christ had for Paul produced in him a love for Christ which expressed itself in the same self-sacrificing way as had Christ’s love for him.

Christ’s love as seen in his sacrificial death for all is the foundation upon which all works that are truly good can flow. This is the gospel, the good news of what God has done for us in Christ. The gospel is the power supply for the proper stewardship of giving.

Now Paul sets the good news of Christ’s love specifically into the context of Christian giving. *“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich”* (2 Corinthians 8:9). Once again this verse begins with a “for.” In the previous verse Paul had talked about testing the sincerity of the Corinthians’ love by comparing it with the zeal demonstrated by the Macedonians in the matter of gathering an offering for the needy believers in Jerusalem.

A LOOK AT LUTHER

THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

In 1530 Emperor Charles the Fifth held another diet (meeting) in Germany, this time at Augsburg. Although he had tried to put an end to Luther’s work, he had not succeeded. The Lutheran Church now had many members, and among these were some of the princes and rulers. Because of these, the emperor did not dare to use force against the Lutherans. But he still hoped that he could bring them back into the Catholic Church. He therefore asked the Lutheran leaders to come to Augsburg and state why they refused to unite with the Catholics. This they were glad to do, since it gave them a fine chance to confess their faith.

Luther was not allowed to go to Augsburg, because the emperor still regarded him as an outlaw. The new Elector of Saxony, John, who was a staunch Lutheran, wanted Luther as close to Augsburg as possible. So he left him at his castle Coburg, on the southern border of Saxony. Here Luther spent the time praying for the success of his friends in Augsburg. He also wrote many letters to them, advising and encouraging them.

At Augsburg the Lutherans gave the world their first confession of faith: the Augsburg Confession. Its twenty-eight articles were written by Philip Melancthon, Luther’s friend and fellow teacher at Wittenberg. Luther himself was well satisfied with the Augsburg Confession, since it stated clearly what the Bible taught. This grand confession was read before the Diet on June 25, 1530. One of the Catholic bishops who heard it said, “All of this is the exact

truth. We cannot deny that.” To this day the Augsburg Confession is regarded by all Lutherans as a chief confession of faith. By 1580 five other confessional writings were added: The Apology (defense) to the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechism, Luther’s Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord.

Note: In Faith Lutheran Church’s Constitution, it states: “This congregation accepts and confesses all the symbolical books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580 as true statements of scriptural doctrine. They are the three ecumenical Creeds: Apostles’, Nicene, and Athanasian. [It includes] the six Lutheran Confessions: Luther’s Small and Large Catechism, The Unaltered Augsburg Confession, The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, and the Formula of Concord.

“This congregation accepts and confesses these symbolical books without reservation, not insofar as, but because they are the presentation and explanation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and a summary of the faith held by the Evangelical Lutheran Church.”

This means that by membership at Faith Lutheran Church you are agreeing to the truths of these confessions as well.



ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

dates
to Remember

Landscape Brigade

Saturday—July 10 @ 8 a.m. in Black River Falls

Congregational Meeting

Sunday—July 25 @ 11 a.m. in Black River Falls

Youth Group Outing

Sunday—July 25 @ 1 p.m. meet at Black River Falls parking lot

BIBLE SOCCER CAMP NEEDS

Snacks: With the Bible Soccer Camp on the calendar, it means we are in need of drinks and snacks. If you would be willing to make or bring some snacks for the week of August 9-11, please bring them in Sunday, August 1st, August 8th, or during the week of Bible Camp.

Soccer Balls: Would you happen to have a soccer ball(s) lying around your house? If you do, would you be willing to let Faith borrow it/them during Bible Soccer Camp. If this is possible, please bring them to church either August 1st or August 8th. Thank you.



TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?

If travel or vacation plans take you away from Black River Falls or Cataract this summer, remember: you can catch our worship service live on Faith's Facebook page, or you can go to wels.net and click on the church locator button to find a sister WELS church at which to worship in the area of the country you are in.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING

Sunday, July 25 at 11 a.m. The meeting will be held in Black River Falls.



NO TALK, NO KNOCK, NO TRAINING

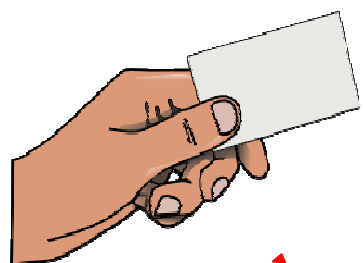
In August, prior to our Bible Soccer Camp, our congregation will hang 1,000 postcards—inviting our community to the Bible Soccer Camp. Will you help? You will not be asked to talk to anyone, knock on any doors, or go through any training. All you need to be able to do is walk from door to door and hang postcards on the door. How awesome it would be to have a large number of our members in their Faith T-shirts walking around our community. The days and times of the canvass will be:

9-11am—Saturday, August 7

2-4 pm—Saturday, August 7

2-4 pm—Sunday, August 8

Choose one day and time, or come for more. We will plan to canvass until 4 pm Sunday or until we are out of postcards.



**Let's March
Off The
Map!**



June 2021 CAMM

Monthly Newsletter



In every society, especially if one is relocating to a new location or job for the first time, the environment at that place will speak to the individual and will dictate how to behave. This is not new to many people who have gone to live and work in a new place. The Lutheran Rural Health Center has been receiving new staff that have come from different parts of Zambia to work at the clinic. These are both Lutheran members and Government paid staff.

The clinic received a young man by the name of Mr. Mwanda Chipulu. He is a male nurse who was posted to the health centre in 2019 by the government. Seeing the example of other clinic staff, the gentleman got down to work, he committed himself to work hard - especially as he was the only male nurse. Many have commended his work ethic and attitude. This was proven one day when instead of going home after a long day at clinic, Mr Chipulu chose to accompany an expectant mother who, due to complications, needed to be referred to another clinic that was better able to care for her. Mr. Chipulu went with the expecting mother and her other family members. This action was applauded by many staff and volunteers at the clinic as well as community members and leaders.

It is easy to see the passion Mr. Chipulu has for his call as a nurse. His fellow staff have appreciated his attitude toward work. The clinic is a faith-based facility with a mission to demonstrate the good news of Jesus Christ through physical help to others. Mr Chipulu is a good example of how children of God demonstrate the love and passion toward the call to service.

Sadly, two months ago, the center received another female nurse from the Government, and at the same time, the Government required that Mr. Chipulu be moved to another clinic. The transfer raised serious concerns with the staff, patients, and the gate keepers (Community leaders). Some 22 Village Headmen called for a meeting to petition the Health District Director not to withdraw Mr. Chipulu from the Lutheran Rural Health Centre. As Clinic Administrator I brought these concerns to the Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) to mediate on our behalf with The Ministry of Health regarding the transfer of Mr. Chipulu. To date a final decision has not been made.

What lessons do we learn from this situation? We are being reminded of Colossians 3:23-24. *"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."*

Friends, there are many times in this life when we are given tasks and responsibilities that need us to use the gifts that the Lord has given us as His children. We should use those talents to the glory of God, and by so doing people show that they love God and worship Him.

Many situations in this life are different. People go for work under different circumstances. Some are happy days and some are dark, but at all times let us do whatever is required without doubt or hesitation. Let us use the power of prayer and remember that we should choose to work hard and keep our heads up, so that others will follow our example. While hard work and Christian living is not a reward itself, it can always serve as an example to others. In everything you do, do not give up. Perseverance is key and remain focused on the cross in all things present before you.

Respectively submitted,

Alisad Banda – Zambia Clinic Administrator