

## Anniversaries



Greg + Elaine Fatla	6/8
Ken + Carolyn Diener	6/15
Mark + Laura Mueller	6/17
Brad + Kelly Rahmlow	6/26



**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.



N6598 County Highway A  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
(mailing address)

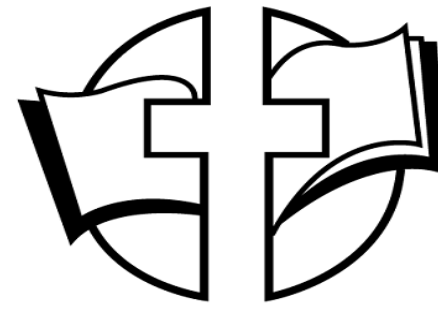
N6774 Acorn Ave.  
Sparta, WI 54656

Phone: 715-284-0772  
Pastor: Joel Neumann

We're on the Web!  
[www.faithwels.com](http://www.faithwels.com)

## Birthdays

Wyatt Anderson	6/2
Janeen Folgers	6/4
Roger Olson	6/5
Pastor Ron Baerbock	6/9
Nancy Kirchman	6/11
Pastor Joel Neumann	6/16
Malachi Neumann	6/17
Ian Timm	6/17
Tyler Jessie	6/19
Kristopher Schwartzenberger	6/21
Adalee Laufenberg	6/24
Rachel Neumann	6/24
Cooper Fatla	6/25
Karen Baerbock	6/25
Gavin Mueller	6/26
Sherry Bue	6/28
Linda Geddes	6/30



# The Messenger

**JUNE 2022**

## Does Prayer Really Make a Difference?

*"I must not be asking God for the right things."*

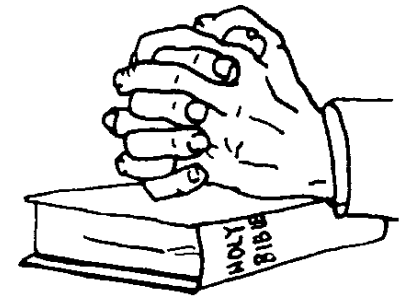
*"If only I could concentrate better when I pray."*

*"Maybe God is not really listening after all."*

If these are thoughts that ever cross your mind or settle in your heart, then maybe you are asking the question, "Does prayer really work?" Maybe you have been praying for a long time and have not received the answer you wanted or felt that there hasn't been any change.

Well, there is good news. Prayer really does make a difference. There are two reasons for this. First, prayer does not depend on us. If answers to our prayers depended on us, we would never have our prayers answered, because as sinful people God would not listen to us. That might hurt our feelings, but it is the truth.

That leads to the subsequent reason why prayer makes a difference. It depends upon God. In the Bible, we read this little prayer, "Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for



mercy; in your faithfulness and righteousness come to my relief" (Psalm 143:1). The person who spoke this prayer recognized that it was God's faithfulness on which the answer to his request depended.

God's faithfulness was demonstrated when he kept his promise to send us Jesus. In saving love, Jesus died to pay for our sins that had separated us from God and had closed his ears to our prayers. Jesus' perfect sacrifice opens the way to God and gives believers in Jesus the gracious promise that their prayers are heard and answered.

If you are struggling with prayer—if you don't know what to pray for, or how to pray—worship to hear more about your Savior, Jesus, and the difference he makes for your prayers. Because of Jesus, prayer really does work. We have his Word on it.

*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](mailto:pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com). Or send information to Laura Mueller at [mueller-laura@hotmail.com](mailto:mueller-laura@hotmail.com). Deadline for information is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.

# BRANCHES BAND



Branches Band exists to serve Christ through our music. Members of the band Andy Braun (guitar, vocals, and harmonica) and Rachel Braun (vocals, small percussion, and piano) travel all over the country with this ministry playing hymns and original songs based on Scripture to edify worship services, add fun to church functions, help with VBS, and so much more! For more information visit:

**[BRANCHESBAND.COM](http://BRANCHESBAND.COM)**

## BRANCHES BAND IS COMING THIS MONTH!

Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches..."

Branches Band, a Milwaukee-based music group, uses their love for music to identify the Savior of the world - Jesus! From a fresh take on ancient hymns to original compositions, from guitars and piano to vocal harmonies, the truth of God's love and grace is at the root of the Branches Band ministry.

Mark your calendars and invite your friends! Branches Band will be part of our joint worship service on Sunday, June 19, at 10 a.m. Then will perform for our community concert in the Lunda Park on Tuesday, June 21, at 7 p.m. In addition to sponsoring the band, our church is providing free popcorn and lemonade before the concert in the park. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. In case of a stormy weather tune to WWIS Radio to hear if the concert will be moved to the church building.

Branches Band has performed in all 50 states and Canada and has served over 500 congregations by offering Christian concerts, assisting with worship, and developing music resources for today's church leaders and worship teams. Since 2008, Branches Band has produced 11 studio albums and completed nine songbooks, with plans to produce more albums and worship resources in the future. For more information, scheduling, albums, sheet music, and other resources, visit [branchesband.com](http://branchesband.com) or find them on Facebook at [facebook.com/branchesband](https://facebook.com/branchesband).



## May 2022 CAMM Monthly Newsletter



When Beth and I were living in Malawi back in the early 1980's polio was very real. In 1980 Malawi reported around 50,000 cases, and the devastating effects of the disease with its paralysis could be seen just about anywhere we travelled. Major vaccination efforts were already underway and gradually polio came under control, so that in 2005 Malawi was declared polio free.

Polio vaccination has been part of our under-five's vaccination schedule for many years. By the time children are 5 months old they will have received 4 oral doses and one injection. Vaccination rates in Malawi are believed to be over 90%. The fight against Polio was so successful that MAP -Malawi Against Polio, the organization that championed vaccination and provided support for Polio patients morphed into an agency called Malawi Against Physical Disabilities whose aim is to help people of all ages with disabilities towards independence. They focus particularly on those with mobility problems and those suffering from polio, paralysis, paraplegia, tetraplegia, hemiplegia and other disabilities.

You can imagine our surprise when in February this year the Malawian government announced an outbreak of Polio. Here are some excerpts from a local news article:

*"Health authorities have declared an outbreak of wild poliovirus type 1 after a case was detected in a young child in the capital Lilongwe. This is the first case of wild poliovirus in Africa in more than five years."*

*"Laboratory analysis shows that the strain detected in Malawi is linked to the one that has been circulating in Sindh Province in Pakistan."*

*"Following the detection of wild polio in Malawi, we're taking urgent measures to forestall its potential spread. Thanks to a high level of polio surveillance in the continent and the capacity to quickly detect the virus, we can swiftly launch a rapid response and protect children from the debilitating impact of this disease."*

*"Any case of wild polio virus is a significant event, and we will mobilize all resources to support the country's response," said Dr Modjirom Ndoutabe, Polio Coordinator in the WHO Regional Office for Africa."*

Malawi Government agencies are stepping up their efforts to vaccinate and revaccinate children. Government Health Surveillance Assistants have been going door to door with the polio vaccine and The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), has been providing solar powered refrigerators to clinics in rural areas to store polio vaccine, including one that was recently installed at our Msambo clinic. In Zambia the government declared poliomyelitis week as a precaution because of the Malawian case, and our Mwembezhii staff have been going door to door as part of a polio vaccination program.

Most of our staff has never treated a polio patient. Today we were fortunate to have Dr John Podgore, from the University of North Texas Health Science Center where he is a professor who specializes in Pediatric infectious Diseases, provide an in-service to our staff in how to recognize the symptoms of polio and methods to limit the spread.

The Central Africa Medical Mission cooperates with government agencies to carry out preventative and treatment health initiatives. Our staff share monthly statistics and attend government review sessions to ensure our work is in line with the needs of the communities we serve. Our medical focus may change due to current initiatives, but our mission remains the same: to support the Gospel mission by communicating Christ's love as we show caring concern to the people we serve.

*"Heal the sick who are there and tell them the Kingdom of God has come near to you" Luke 10:9*

Gary Evans

CAMM Field Director – LMC Clinic Administrator



## Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes SUMMARY May 23, 2022

Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Scott Templeton, Rick Treptow, Kirk Goetzka, Tyler Jessie, Brad Markhardt

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

### ELDER'S REPORT

Our sister in Christ, Mary Sasman, was called home to her Savior April 29.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of April

Included were his pastoral acts

April's average worship attendance was 95

April's average Sunday online worship use was 12

Ascension Worship will be held May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in Cataract

The service time swap will begin this Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

The Branches Band will be providing musical accompaniment during our joint service June 19<sup>th</sup>. They will be compensated \$1000 for the Tuesday night in the Park and the Sunday morning service beforehand.

Pastor updated the council on pastor and teacher vacancies in our synod, as well as updating the council on the mission congregations in our Western Wisconsin District.

The new hymnals have arrived, we will be transitioning to using them as the main hymnal in September. We will be opening them and creasing the pages after an upcoming church service.

Council approved adding two additional pianist copies of the new hymnal for Emily Timm and Rachel Neumann.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Tyler presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$20,903.62 through the end of April 2022. Moved, Seconded, Confirmed (MSC) to accept financial report for April, 2022

### SPECIAL REPORTS

Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt

Summer sermon devotions will be handed out after church starting the first Sunday in June and continuing until the end of August.

Property Committee – The blacktop will be re-sealed in the Cataract location in the next couple weeks.

The projector for the Cataract location is on backorder and will hopefully be installed in August.

### NEW BUSINESS

The church joint picnic will be held June 19<sup>th</sup> at 10am in BRF

Our congregation has joined the MAP (Member Assistance Program) with CFS (Christian Family Solutions). Information for this Program will be distributed in July. This program is synod supplied and connects you with mental health professionals from our Synod that provide counseling services.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer

The next Council Meeting will be held June 20<sup>th</sup> in BRF at 6pm.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

## CONCERT IN THE PARK

**LUNDA PARK—BLACK RIVER FALLS**

**TUESDAY – JUNE 21 – 7PM**

**HOSTED BY FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**MORE INFO: FAITHWELS.COM**

**BRANCHES BAND:  
WWW.BRANCHESBAND.COM.**

**Faith Lutheran Church** will once again be hosting a concert in the park at the Lunda Community Park this summer.

It is scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, at 7 pm. This year, Branches Band will be here.

To learn more about Branches Band and their music, check out [www.branchesband.com](http://www.branchesband.com).

## WELS Women's Ministry Conference

### WON TO BE ONE

WELS Women's Ministry Conference  
July 21-23, 2022 (Thursday – Saturday)  
Luther Preparatory School, 1300 Western Avenue, Watertown, Wisconsin

Have you longed for healing in our shattered, fragmented world? Do you feel detached and torn because everyone is at odds? Why can't we get along? The world is desperately searching for solutions, but it can't find the answer. These longings can only be fulfilled as we dig into Scripture and learn God's truth.

Join women from every walk of life at the WELS Women's Ministry Conference July 21-23, 2022. As we study Ephesians we'll learn to cultivate unity that begins with grace for me and grace for others. When we start here, we can identify barriers that get in the way, stand firm on Scripture in the face of conflict, and extend grace in our everyday relationships. As Christians we are Won to be One.

Please note these three things:

More information can be found at [wels.net/wmconference](http://wels.net/wmconference)

Cost is \$130 (Early bird rate – by May 15) or \$150 (Registration open until June 30)

The Church Council moved to cover the cost of any women of our congregation who would like to attend



## WELS Night at American Family Field



Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS members for the return of WELS Night at American Family Field! Watch the Brewers take on the Pirates on Friday, July 8.

Seating will be together for WELS members in all three seating areas.

Tickets for WELS members and guests are discounted up to 50%.

See the bulletin board for more information.



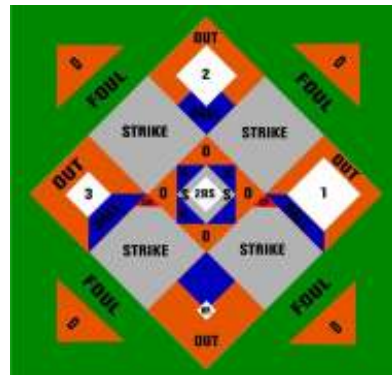
## JESUS CARES MINISTRIES

### Worship at the Cross

**Next Worship at the Cross  
will be Saturday, June 25,  
at 1 pm at our Black River  
Falls campus.**

## FiSH Dartball & Tailgate!

The FiSH group (Faith's Social Harbor) invites adults for an evening of dartball. This is a combination of darts and baseball. Thankfully, there is no running or catching. Ken Diener has hand-crafted our very own official dartball board! We'll play this in the parking lot. As long as we're in the parking lot, let's tailgate! Bring your own meat to grill and a dish to pass if you would like to. We'll provide a hot grill, plates, plasticware, napkins, cups, and lemonade. Experience is NEVER required with any of our activities – come, learn, and have fun! We'll meet Saturday, June 11, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the BRF building location. 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.



## **BRF Landscape Brigade**



Our building and grounds give glory to God. There is plenty of landscape maintenance to be done around our BRF building site: pruning, mulching, fertilizing, weeding and other general landscaping. Consider helping by being a part of the BRF "landscape brigade." We will usually meet the second Saturday of each month, now through October, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you would like to.

## **Church Library**



The Christian Family section of our BRF church library has the book, "Marriage and Family - The Family Photo Album" by John D. Schuetze from the People's Bible Teachings series. It gives us the Scriptures' teachings on marriage. The chapters cover singles, engagement, God instituting, blessing regulating, and nurturing marriage, broken marriage, blended families, alternate lifestyles, and our marriage with Christ.

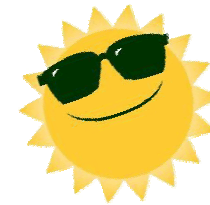
To checkout, write the date, your name, and the name of the book/DVD/CD in the notebook on the shelf.

To return, put the book/DVD/CD into the basket on the shelf and cross out your entry in the notebook.



## **Faith Outreach Meeting**

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include the community concert and prospect follow-up. Our meeting will take place Wednesday, June 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the BRF church building.



## 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](http://wels.net) and click on the church locator to find a sister WELS church at which to worship in the area you are at.

## DAILY SUMMER DEVOTIONS

Starting Sunday, June 5, devotions based on Sunday sermons will once again be made available each Sunday. These devotions are set up so that a devotion can be done each day of the week. Some questions are meant to get you to "dig deeper" while others are meant to be at the level of younger children. God bless you as you sit down and study God's Word.



## CHURCH PICNIC

Our annual joint church picnic is fast approaching. This year it will be at our Black River Falls location and will be on Sunday, June 19, and **Branches Band** will join us to assist in the music portion of our worship. Service time will be 10 a.m. Meat, buns, condiments, drinks and chips will be provided that day. If able, members are asked to bring either a salad or dessert. Then, plan to stay for some fun and games after lunch!

## WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE

Remember, our service times have changed! This summer we have once again flip-flopped our worship service times. Sunday morning worship services are as follows: Cataract – 8 am and Black River Falls 9:45 am. These times will continue through summer.



## **NEW HYMNALS**

Our congregation has purchased new hymnals that will be placed into chairs and pews in June. However, before using them, it is suggested that we crease the pages so as to avoid damaging the book. We will plan to do this after our 9:45 service on Sunday, June 12. Anyone able to stick around, your help would be greatly appreciated.