

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

In wisdom and with love, God gave marriage to Adam by giving him a perfect and beautiful creation, woman. Marriage completed what was incomplete. Nothing was better than paradise, but marriage made it even better.

Even after sin forced the first married couple to leave Eden, they could move on in life bolstered by the promise of the coming Savior and blessed with a bit of paradise still intact, marriage. In and with each other, their joys would be doubled and their burdens halved.

If that's the way God views marriage, shouldn't we too!

For this reason Faith Lutheran is going to offer a series of events meant to enrich our marriages. These events will be based off of the Healthy Marriage retreat held in La Crosse in March—BUT THEY WON'T BE EXACTLY THE SAME! (*Even if they were the same, let's be honest, we still could benefit from them because how many of us who went have been faithfully putting into practice all we learned*)

The schedule for the Marriage Enrichment Events will be as follows:

6-7 pm—Marriage Enrichment from God's Word

(This will take place in the fellowship hall of our BRF location)

7-9 pm—Date Night!

(Babysitting will be provided at church. You are asked to be back to pick your child(ren) up by 9 pm and may be asked to give \$5 in gratitude for the babysitters time)

Marriage Enrichment Dates

Friday, June 22—Understanding Marriage... Knowing Each Other

Friday, August 24—Marital Oneness

TBA—Barriers to Marriage & Oneness (Part 1)

TBA—Barriers to Marriage & Oneness (Part 2)

TBA—Communication: A Key to a Great Marriage

TBA—Connecting: Completing a Great Marriage



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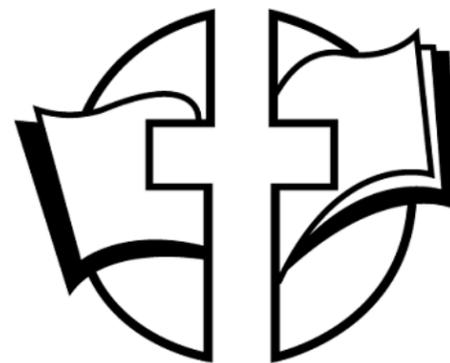
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Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is a part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a church body with congregations in all fifty states and missionaries in 25 countries.

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.



The Messenger

June 2018

Love Does Not...But It Does

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. (1 Corinthians 13:6)

In a recent Bible Class, the participants present were read this quotation: "Why is there quarreling in Christian homes? Because people are letting selfishness rule their wants and their words. Why do husbands and wives fight? Because their hearts are not right with God. Because they like being proud more than being humble. Because self-pity is a powerful narcotic. Because loving themselves seems more satisfying than loving their spouse. Because they feel more powerful by criticizing their spouse's faults than by confessing their own sins. Because they grow to like the adrenaline rush of anger" (Jeske, Mark. People's Bible – James, Peter, John, Jude. Pg. 38).

At first when we hear Paul's words—"love does not delight in evil"—we might be tempted to think, "who would delight in evil?" But then you read that quote and you realize that you and I have done just that. To delight in evil is to take pleasure in what is wrong. And isn't that what we do when we know we are in the wrong but refuse to repent and ask forgiveness from the one we hurt? Isn't that what we do when we continue to criticize others because it makes us look and feel good to do so? Isn't that what we do when we

purposefully act in a way contrary to God's desire because it would mean losing out on something we want to do? Oh do we ever need the reminder the words of 1 Corinthians 13:6 brings.

Now, stop and consider God's love. God loved this foul world reeking of lust and hate and greed and rebellion; a cesspool of guilt and shame to whom we belong. Sin saturated and sin-cursed humankind was completely unworthy of any kind of divine love, but God did love us. Although he clearly saw all of our repulsiveness he devoted himself to our welfare so deeply and intensely that he made the supreme sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sin. "God loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Such love is the highest kind of love. It seeks the welfare of those who are utterly unworthy of any kindness and concern.

This love saw its supreme act played out on Calvary. There, our Savior died as the punishment for the times we have delighted in evil. In gracious love he called you to faith and made you his own through Word and Sacrament. In patient love he draws you to stand beneath his cross

for the forgiveness you need every day so you will never run out of reasons to rejoice with the truth.

And we, who know his love in Christ cannot help but return love for love. We do that when, in love, we rejoice with the truth. That means we will not take pleasure in what is wrong but instead turn away from it. It means working to correct any evil we might see in ourselves. It means being happy for what is right and good and seeking to acknowledge it.

It means having the capacity to be wronged and not retaliate. It means rising above petty things and being generous in the way we treat each other. It means holding no grudges, demanding no satisfaction, and remembering your own shortcomings. It means forgiving others and giving up your self-perceived right to get even.

Yes, this love works to show itself in every situation. And when we see that we have failed to measure up fully, this love doesn't excuse itself but turns to God and says, "Forgive me Lord, for Jesus' sake. Help me grow in this love that you first showed me."

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JESUS CARES WORSHIP AT THE CROSS

We will continue our Jesus Cares Worship at the Cross services this month on **Monday, June 25**. It will be held at **6 p.m.** at our Black River Falls location. If you would like to be a volunteer in this program, please talk to Pastor Neumann. If you personally know someone who might benefit from this new program, please pass this information on to them. A flyer is available in the back of church. If there are none there, please talk to Pastor Neumann. This service is a simplified service that follows a format appropriate for people with a cognitive disability, including people with forms of dementia. Pictures and symbols lead participants through the parts of the service.

Looking Ahead In June

June 3 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Focus – In God’s kingdom we are to live according to his will, expressed in the law

Readings: Mark 2:23-28; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

June 10 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Focus – Favorite Hymns Sunday

Readings: Mark 3:13-17; Isaiah 40:27-31; 1 Peter 3:13-17

June 17 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Focus – The work of the Gospel is invisible, but real

Readings: Mark 4:26-34; Ezekiel 17:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

June 24 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Focus – Christian Unity & Fellowship

Readings: Exodus 19:4-8; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16; John 17:20-26

From the Library

A new book series has been added to the Bible Study Aids section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at our BRF location. The books are the God's People Series. These are 12 short (40 pages) books that speak about the life and times of God's chosen people. In the series, you'll meet Abraham, David, Jonah, Elijah, Joseph, Paul, Esther, Moses, Peter, Jacob, Noah, and Ruth. You'll find two threads running through each book: 1 - the curse of sin, 2 - salvation in Christ Jesus. The plots and setting have been taken from the Bible. The authors speculate occasionally to give additional background to the story.

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.

Birthdays

Devon Dennis	6/1
Wyatt Anderson	6/2
Janeen Folgers	6/4
Pastor Ron Baerbock	6/9
Nancy Kirchman	6/11
Pastor Joel Neumann	6/16
Malachi Neumann	6/17
Tyler Jessie	6/19
Kristopher Schwartzenberger	6/21
Adalee Laufenberg	6/24
Alisa Volk	6/24
Rachel Neumann	6/24
Cooper Fatla	6/25
Karen Baerbock	6/25
Taylor Hertz	6/26
Sherry Bue	6/28

Anniversaries

Mark and Amber Hanson	6/2
Greg and Elaine Fatla	6/8
Ken and Caroline Diener	6/15
Mark and Laura Mueller	6/17
Chad and Jenny Goetzke	6/24
Brad and Kelly Rahmlow	6/26



JOINT SERVICE & PICNIC
JUNE 24—10 AM

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! (Psalm 133)

Let us celebrate and build that unity at our annual joint worship service and picnic on **June 24, at 10 a.m.** This service will take place at our Black River Falls location this year. Even if this isn't the location where you usually worship, let us make the effort to gather around God's Word that morning (when don't we need to do that) and rejoice in the fellowship we have. The food will be provided that day!

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

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW (OR MIGHT NOT KNOW) ABOUT YOUR CHURCH

This short article continues a section begun in the newsletter at the beginning of the year. The goal of this section is to keep you as well informed as possible as to the whats, whys, and hows of your congregation.

6. Maintenance

You come to church on a wintry Sunday morning – but you don't have to trudge through the snow to get into church. It's a beautiful summer Sunday, you notice how the flowers and bushes are flowering and the grass is mowed. You use the restroom at church and the soap is filled and there are towels with which to dry your hands. You sit in church and the temperature is comfortable and the carpet is clean.

Have you ever wondered how this happens? It is because of the many people who volunteer their time and energy to keep our house of worship looking like a respectable place of worship. It's because of the people who give of their time to take care of the building and grounds God has so graciously allowed us to have.

Much of what is done runs through the Property Committee. This Committee meets periodically throughout the year to take inventory on how things are going, as well as to discuss things that need to be done. Cleaning teams are set up each month so our worship space can look nice. Outside workdays are planned so our grounds can look clean. People are contacted to shovel and plow and mow. And all this work done in and around Faith is done on a volunteer basis. Sometimes some of the work falls on only one or two people.

Now you know. Now that you know, would you be willing to help if you aren't already? If you would like to help but don't know how to get started, talk with Pastor or Scott Templeton.



SUMMER DEVOTION SERIES

Remember those devotions last summer that were based off of Pastor's sermons? Well, we will do that again this summer! Starting Sunday, June 3, the ushers will hand out these devotions at the end of service. God's bless you as you and your family sit down together to discuss God's Word.

CHRIS DRIESBACH – IN THE PARK

Who is Chris Driesbach, you ask? Well, let Chris tell you. "I'm a member of Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Madison, Alabama. Since 2006 I've been on many musical tours, playing concerts at over 770 WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) and ELS (Evangelical Lutheran Synod) churches. My songs are all original Christian music and I love to tell the story of my journey to faith."

"I played music professionally for 30 years on the west coast. I was an atheist until age 33, and after that sort of a new-age spiritualist. Nine years later I became a Lutheran and a Christian at the same time in 1995. Faith Lutheran Church and Pastor James Oldfield in Anchorage, Alaska were my first church and pastor. We went through a 22-week Bible study course together. Pastor Oldfield read to me out of the Bible when I asked him all of the hardest questions I could think of, and after 6 weeks of his class I was given the gift of faith by the Spirit working through God's Word. My life completely changed, of course!"

Why should you know about Chris, you ask? Because he is coming to Black River Falls on July 24. On that day Faith Lutheran Church will host Chris at Lunda Park as part of the community concert series. Come join us. Here is the information again:

When: Tuesday, July 24 @ 7 p.m. Where: Lunda Park, Black River Falls



SUMMER SERVICE TIME CHANGE

First Sunday of Change: Sunday, May 27
Last Sunday for Change: Sunday, September 2

New Times: Cataract – 8 a.m.
Black River Falls – 9:45 a.m.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary

May 21, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting opened at 6 pm 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 MINISTRY.

Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Jerry Kirchman, Brad Rahmlow, Dale Jessie, Cody Heller, Grady Severson, Scott Templeton.

Elders Report

- Garrett gave an update on the recent Elder's meeting and reported on membership changes:

Deaths: Michael Collies 4/18/18 and Donna Heuer 5/13/18

Confirmations: Macy Johnson 5/13/18 and Malachi Neumann 5/13/18

Pastor's Report

- Pastor reviewed a statistical report for the month of April.

- He updated the council on:

Jesus Cares Worship at the Cross.

Marriage Enrichment Event June 22 with babysitting provided.

District Convention June 4th and 5th.

Prison Ministry— Pastor meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday's at 6pm for a Bible Study. He also meets with three individuals on those nights from 7-8:30pm. In addition, he reported that he visits three inmates 30 minutes each on the afternoon of the 3rd Tuesday of the month and visits four inmates for 30 minutes each on the afternoon of the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Financial Report

- Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$3,295.21 through the end of April. Moved, Seconded and Confirmed (MSC) to accept the financial report for April 2018.

Special Reports

Property Committee: Scott Templeton talked about upcoming projects including

1) Sealcoating the parking lots with repairs made as necessary. Received bids from two providers for seal coating the parking lots. Lower of the two bids (\$4,337) for Cataract and BRF. Holcomb Concrete will fix sinking areas in the parking lot prior to sealcoating (cost \$275). MSC to repair concrete at estimated cost of \$425. Discussion on sealcoating of parking lots tabled until next meeting

2) Repair to concrete sidewalk in BRF (large crack that has developed) - (cost \$575). MSC to repair sidewalk at estimated cost of \$575.

3) Copy machine replacement. Received bids from two providers for a copier and service. Recommendation was to purchase a copy machine (\$5,034) from EO Johnson. Service contract will decrease from previous contract and is covered in the cost per copy (3 year price lock). MSC to purchase machine and sign service/copy contract.

Outreach Committee: Brad Markhardt provided a summary report for the Church Council.

1) Council reviewed report and Pastor highlighted the Bible Soccer Camp planned August 6-8. Potential cost of \$880. MSC to approve purchasing for up to 40 participants.

Old Business

- Pastor has been researching computers and decided on one that should fill the needs of the congregation. It was MSC to purchase new computer at an estimated cost of \$1,100.

New Business

- The youth group will be heading to Bowling Green University in Ohio in June and are exploring possibilities for travel to get there.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be held in CAT June 18, 2018 at 6pm.

Recorded by Brad Rahmlow

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group will meet in Black River Falls on Sunday, June 10 from 2-3:30 p.m. Our youth group includes all those in 7-12 grade. Those who will be entering the 7th grade in the fall are invited to come.

A Letter from Africa

"Give thanks unto the Lord for he is good; his love endures forever".

It's Wednesday today and I woke up to a faint glimmer of hope. The tiny red light on the air conditioner in our bedroom was on, a sign that we still had power. But within a few minutes there was a click, the light faded out and the realization came that once again "No Power Wednesday", as we lovingly call it, was upon us. Rolling black outs and power outages in general have become common place here in Malawi. When you have rapid population growth and urbanization in what is often regarded as one of the poorest nations in the world, it is hardly surprising that the infrastructure cannot keep up with fast growing demand. Here in Lilongwe's area 10, where the Lutheran Mobile Clinic house is situated, we are relatively lucky and typically only have power outages once or twice a week, Wednesday seems to be our day. Over at the Lutheran Bible Institute, where our missionaries live, it's a different story. Theirs is a less affluent part of town and more often than not family supper is spent in candle light or with power supplied from a generator or battery inverter.

ESCOM (Electricity Supply Company of Malawi) isn't alone. Lilongwe's roadway infrastructure hasn't kept up with the growth in the number of vehicles. In fact, it is well understood that it is best not to travel from one side of town to the other during evening rush hour, because you will be driving at close to walking speed. There's even a rule of thumb when shopping: if you see something you might want, buy it now, because you just don't know when it might be in the store again.

People have come to expect many aspects of life here to be unreliable. They might get angry or complain from time to time. But in general they shrug their shoulders and get on with it

In the United States these things are taken for granted. But in a place where things that are taken for granted do not always work, its good know what does. At the villages where we hold clinics, people know that they can rely on the Lutheran Mobile Clinic to show up and have the medical expertise and medicines they need for themselves and their families. They will see our nurses and staff demonstrating God's love first hand. They will also hear God's word in a devotion before clinic, and will know that despite all else in their lives that they cannot rely on, that our Lord is always there to love and protect them with His saving grace - something we can all depend on and should be thankful for every day. I know I am.

Its evening now, and the power hasn't returned. Time for me to fire up the generator. Something else to be thankful for.

Gary Evans

Clinic Administrator