
		
Chad Goetzka	5/7	
Kalleigh Kiesow	5/9	
Mark Mueller	5/10	
Owen Goetzka	5/16	
Chase Severson	5/16	
Grady Severson	5/16	
Aspen Bue	5/22	
Sophia Neumann	5/23	
Macy Johnson	5/23	
Audrey Timm	5/24	
Isabelle Reetz	5/28	
Kirk Goetzka	5/30	

Congratulations and God's Blessings to our High School Graduates -
Macy Johnson
Malachi Neumann

Anniversaries		
Ken and Janeen Folgers		5/1
Matt and Toni Anderson		5/20
Jerry and Jan Eggen		5/20

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



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

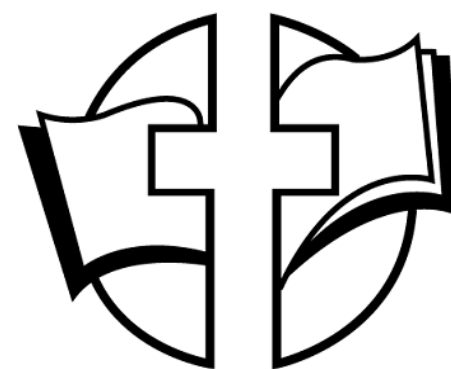
N6774 Acorn Ave.
 Sparta, WI 54656

Phone: 715-284-0772
 Pastor: Joel Neumann

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, contact—in person or by email—or Laura Mueller: muellerlaura@hotmail.com or Pastor Neumann: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com

Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.



The Messenger

May 2022

The Messenger

Why should I get up in the morning and live life?

Are you a morning person? You know, the kind of person that whistles on the way to the shower and sings while you dress. Or, are you addicted to the snooze button and therefore almost always rushing around in the morning, trying not to be late for the day's events?

God's Word is like an alarm that is ringing. Every time we have lust in our hearts, it rings. Every time we utter an obscenity, it rings. Every time our mouths are full of coarse joking, we hear it ring. The temptation is to hit the snooze button of our conscience and continue sleeping in sin. But snoozing through the alarm of God's holy will is more serious than showing up late for a meeting. If we ignore what God commands, we are in for a rude awakening. In the Bible, we read, "God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient" (Ephesians 5:6). No matter how much we cover



our heads with the blanket of denial, we cannot and will not escape the alarm of God's justice.

God's alarm is ringing for us, "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you" (Ephesians 5:14).

Jesus is the light of the world. He came to dispel the

darkness that shrouded us by sin and death. His light shone brightly when he was lifted up on a cross to die in order to take away our death. And his light exploded in brilliance when he rose from the dead to prove that he is the world's Savior. Through the good news of God's Word, the light of Jesus Christ shines on us to awaken us from the slumber of sin and darkness of death.

We might have work to do on our morning routines. But praise be to God for Jesus, whose light from the cross and empty grave shines on us. Led by his light, we can get up in the morning to live life, "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20).

Service Time Change

We will once again flip-flop service times between our two locations for the summer months. Therefore, please take note that starting Sunday, May 29, service times will be as follows: Cataract – 8 a.m. & Black River Falls – 9:45 a.m.



Ascension Worship Service

“I rejoiced with those who said to me, ‘Let us go to the house of the Lord’” (Psalm 122:1). May the spirit of the Psalmist be our spirit as we consider the opportunity to gather in God’s house for Ascension worship. That service will be Thursday, May 26, at 6:30 pm at our Cataract campus.

Spring Cleaning at Cataract

When: Saturday May 7 – 9 a.m.

Where: Cataract campus

What: Cleaning of inside and out

Other: A potluck at 12 p.m. is planned – Bring a dish to pass!



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.



Special Reports

- Outreach Committee
 1. Easter Crafts for kids was a success with many children in attendance and several prospect families that came to the event.
 2. Brad gave updates on the vision timeline action items that the Outreach Committee is addressing, including increased prospect follow up, new member welcome, and better utilizing synod supplied outreach materials.
- Property Committee
 1. The blacktop will be re-sealed in the Cataract location in the near future. The cost of resealing will be around \$3,500
 2. A projector for the Cataract location has been purchased and will be installed when it comes in. The cost for the project will be roughly \$1000
 3. A new lawn mower has been donated for use at the Cataract church and cemetery
- Jesus Cares Ministry
 1. Jesus Cares is continuing to be held the last Saturday of every month. 4 people with special needs are in regular attendance

Financial Report

1. Tyler presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$26,341.92 through Q1 2022. MSC to accept the financial report.

New Business

1. The church joint picnic will be held June 19th at 10am in BRF
2. The church council moved to pay the entire expense for the WELS Women’s Ministry Conference for any women that would like to attend. Look for sign-up sheets in the entryways
3. The congregation voted to purchase 175 of the new hymnals for the cost of roughly \$4200. MSC
4. The online giving platform is operational. Please feel free to utilize this method of giving and see Tyler Jessie if you have any questions.
5. District Convention will be held June 6th and 7th . Pastor will be attending and is looking for a delegate from the congregation to go with him. .

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord’s Prayer

The next Quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held July 31st at 11:00am in BRF.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

- Council approved Pastor’s vacation requests of July 12th – 20th and August 18th – 29th
- Financial Report**
- Tyler presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$26,341.92 through the end of March 2022. MSC to accept financial report for March, 2022
- Special Reports**
- Council listened to the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt
 - The festival of friendship will be this Sunday, August 24th . Please invite a friend, family member, or acquaintance to attend!
 - Property Committee
 - The blackout will be re-sealed in the Cataract location in the near future
 - A projector for the Cataract location has been purchased and will be installed when it comes in. The cost for the project will be roughly \$900
 - A new lawn mower has been donated for use at the Cataract church and cemetery

- New Business**
- The church joint picnic will be held June 19th at 10am in BRF
 - Council moved to cover the cost for any woman in the congregation that would like to attend a WELS Women’s Ministry Conference July 21st – 23rd. MSC
 - The council moved to recommend to the congregation to purchase 175 new hymnals for a cost of \$4,200. This will be voted on at our next congregational meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord’s Prayer
The next Council Meeting will be held May 23rd in Cataract at 6pm.
Recorded by Garrett Jessie



Faith Ev. Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Minutes Summary
April 24, 2022

- Attendance:** Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Kirk Goetzka, Rick Treptow, Gale Jessie, Brad Markhardt, Mark Mueller, Rudy Jeseritz, Scott Templeton
- The meeting opened at 11:00 am with Pastor Neumann leading us in a devotion and short prayer.
- Elder’s report**
1. The removal of Tim Loftus from membership was ratified. Moved Seconded Confirmed (MSC)
 2. Michael Hall and Mason Morgan were baptized as non-members in the first quarter of the year
 3. Garrett presented a statistical report assembled by Pastor Neumann for Q1 2022



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:**
1. More information can be found at wels.net/wmconference
 2. Cost is \$130 (Early bird rate – by May 15) or \$150 (Registration open until June 30)
 3. The Church Council moved to cover the cost of any women of our congregation who would like to attend

FROM THE LIBRARY *Worth Far More Than Rubies* by Charlene H. Lauersdorf is in the Family Issues section of our BRF church library in the Fellowship Hall, This book is filled with practical Christian advice for women of all ages and responsibilities - teenagers to seniors, single, engaged, newlywed, mother, grandmother, widow.



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.



More information can be round on the table in the gathering area. Please take a copy if you are interested, or go to www.lwms.org. and click on Convention 2022.



CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

March 2022



The Light in the Dark

In December of 2020, a single mother named Veronica brought her 6-month-old baby girl, Lontiya, to the Lutheran Mobile Clinic at Msambo (figure 1). This child had severe spinal curvature and couldn't be held in a sitting position without crying in pain. Mom had learned to hold her lying on one side on her lap so she wouldn't cry. She couldn't hold her head straight at all. She appeared to have cerebral palsy, most likely from birth trauma. Our clinician referred her to Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH) in Lilongwe for follow up and she was to get physical therapy at MAP (Malawi against physical disabilities). However, we found out later that MAP had closed for Covid reasons. Veronica returned in April and told us that MAP had reopened and she had an appointment the next week but she had no money for the transport to the hospital. We provided the funds, and Lontiya had weekly visits for just a few weeks, when MAP closed again. We knew continued physical therapy was needed, though Veronica was faithfully doing exercises with Lontiya at home. Veronica brought her to under-fives clinic and we saw how she loved and advocated for her daughter. She was always smiling and grateful for our help. She met with Pastor Kalima, and started attending Mtima Woyera Lutheran Church at Msambo, eventually becoming a member and had Lontiya baptized.

Meanwhile we were starting to see more children with physical disabilities. Our maintenance man and Lutheran church elder, Mr. Anderson Mwale, came to clinic in March 2021 with his 2 1/2-year-old daughter Harriet, who was not walking, standing or sitting properly. She had just been discharged from the hospital. She was weak on her right side and had seizures since having severe malaria in the previous month. We referred her for PT to a private clinic which I had recently learned about called Children of Blessings. Her mom, Annah, would need to take her there by minibus three times a week, and learn how to do her PT exercises at home. I was very impressed with the therapies provided there. Lontiya and her mom did the same starting in June. Later, there was also a 2-year-old boy named Atusaye who was very tiny, with microcephaly, who's mom Eliza came to us for help. Her husband had left her and the villagers shunned her because she had had this baby. Atusaye had received nutrition support at KCH, and mom was told he needed physical therapy. They had room for these three children for therapy three times a week, and also monitored Harriet's epilepsy medications. It was free except for the transport to get there by minibus, which was not affordable for them. CAMMC was approached about funds to provide the transportation which is about \$7.00 a week per child. Some special donors have stepped up to help with this expense.

These three mothers would come to clinic every week for their transport money, check in about their children's progress, and meet with Pastor Kalima for Bible study. In August we met another adorable little 1 year old girl named Sharva, who wasn't sitting or standing. Her parents also could not afford transport for the therapy she needed. Her mom, Ethiana, asked for our help and she was referred to Children of Blessings. The other moms were supportive of her and they rode together three days a week. Progress in the children's strength and mobility continued and the mothers were doing the exercises for their children at home. Pastor Kalima continued his weekly Bible studies with the group. Sadly, Atusaye was brought to clinic in September with severe pneumonia. As we treated him and prepared to drive him to KCH, Pastor Kalima asked if mom wanted him baptized and she agreed. The next week we heard he had died at the hospital, but mom knew he was at peace with Jesus.

Two new children came to us in September- Isabel, a one-year-old twin with weak muscle tone, and Obvious, a 10-month-old boy with CP and malnutrition. They too were referred for PT, provided with transportation, and received Bible lessons from the Pastor. When Pastor Kalima took a call to another congregation in November, we were wondering who would continue the Bible studies. In February of 2022, Pastor Msiska from St. Peter's congregation in Lilongwe agreed to be vacancy Pastor. He came out to Msambo clinic with us on Tuesdays, and continued the Bible studies with the women. He spoke about baptism and Lutheran doctrines. Obvious' mom asked if he could be baptized the following week. However, we were saddened to learn he had a severe seizure a few days later and died at home. Pastor Msiska spoke with the other moms about God's love and mercy the next week. Isabel's mom asked if she could be baptized and he asked me to come and witness it, along with the mothers. A plastic pitcher was filled with water from our borehole, Pastor spoke the Word and Isabel became a child of God. Then suddenly Ethiana stood up

and asked Pastor to baptize Sharva as well, and it was done. These faith-filled moms knew their daughters belonged to Jesus, and the spirit would work faith in their hearts. It was a joyous moment!

In late March, another mom brought her 1 1/2 year old daughter, Tamara, to clinic with CP, also requesting help to get therapy. Children of Blessings accepted her and the LMC now supports five disabled children in getting a better start in life. A baby at our Thunga clinic named Enock was born with severe cleft lip and palate (figure 2). His mom had walked a long way to clinic when he was 6 weeks old to seek help. We contacted Operation Smile in Lilongwe, who assisted his mom with feeding and monitored him until he had the corrective surgery at 6 months of age. It was wonderful to see him come to under-fives clinic all healed after surgery! (figure 3)

We know the medical mission's work in fighting disease and malnutrition in children helps to prolong their lives and gives them and their parents a chance to hear the Gospel and be saved. But this work includes seeking out help and making referrals for those in poor remote rural villages who would otherwise not be assisted. It is such a privilege to be a part of this mission. We are so very thankful for all who give to the Central Africa Medical Mission to make it possible, and to our Malawian coworkers who show the love of Jesus in their work every day.

Your sister in Christ,, Beth Evans

Donations may be made by Check: Payable to Central Africa Medical Mission and Mailed to:

WELS Gift Processing

N16 W23377 Stone Ridge Drive

Waukesha WI 53188

Or Donate to CAMM online @ www.camm.us/donate-to-camm

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary, April 19, 2022

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

Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Grady Severson, Dave Spaude, Tyler Jessie, Brad Markhardt

Elder's report

- Non-member of baptism: Mason Morgan
- The Elder's Committee has been deciding on the details for "A God Lived Life", which is a Special Sunday each month from September through December. Each Sunday will have a different focus with a bible study during the church service, bible study after church, and small group bible study during the week.
- Pastor Baerbock will be asked to lead the Bible Class after church in Black River Falls. If he is able to, he will be reimbursed \$85 per session for conducting the bible study after church. Moved. Seconded. Confirmed (MSC)

Pastor's Report

- Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of March (March's average attendance was 74 in-person; 84 including online opportunities)
- Easter for Kids was held April 9th
 - 22 children attended with several children being prospects. 11 of them were members and the other 11 not. Thank you for all the volunteers that helped make it a success!
- Cataract Spring cleaning will be Saturday, May 7th at 9am. A potluck lunch will be held afterwards.
- The council approved David Neumann as guest preacher Sunday, May 29th at both locations