

The Messenger

May 2018

Love Is Not...(Part II)

[Love] is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (1 Corinthians 13:5)

Last month we talked about the three different words that the Greek language has for love. It may be interesting to know that the one used in these verses seems to have been virtually a Christian invention -- a new word for a new thing. It draws its meaning directly from the revelation of God in Christ -- his loving attitude toward us and the resulting action that was taken because of that attitude. His is a love that is committed to loving us even though we are unlovable. It is a love not based on how we treat him, but on his commitment to be loving to us. That's the love being described in our words.

That love, of course, is not natural for us. It is born in us only when the Holy Spirit brings us to faith so that we might receive Christ's love in the forgiveness of sins he won for us at the cross. Having received that love, and with the Holy Spirit sitting on the throne of our hearts, we are empowered to show Christ-like love to all around us. Once again this month we see what that love will look like as we listen to Paul tell us what love is not.

Love is not self-seeking! It is not self-loving! It is not selfish! Selfishness lies at the root of so many of this world's problems -- problems between rich and poor, between

nation and nation, between a man and his neighbor, between husband and wife, between brother and sister. In fact, think of any sin and you will find selfishness at its root. No wonder love can not be self-seeking!

Instead, unselfish Christian love moves us to look beyond ourselves and to seek the welfare of others. It seeks to pattern our life after Christ, who willingly gave himself up for us so that we might be forgiven. It takes to heart these words of God: "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:4,5).

Love is not easily angered! It doesn't look for the worst in what a person does. It understands that in this world we will always be dealing with sinners. For this reason, instead of being easily angered, love is willing to forgive. It is considerate. It takes the words and actions of others in the kindest possible way. Again, God's word instructs us: "Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).

Love keeps no record of wrongs! Have you ever asked - why do

people keep a record of wrongs? Isn't it so they can "destroy" someone and win an argument at a later date!? Isn't it so they can bear a grudge and take revenge!? But that's the furthest thing from the love God speaks of in these verses.

A love that keeps no record of wrongs demands no satisfaction; remembers one's own shortcomings; and remembers the forgiving spirit of our heavenly Father. A love that keeps no record of wrongs follows the example of God himself who covers every sin with the righteousness of Christ and who designed and carried out a plan for his justice to be taken out on our substitute Jesus instead of us.

So how has your love been lately? (Pause and think about it) See how again we must carry our sins in repentance to the cross of Jesus our Savior. And then, having done that, may we again praise God that in his love he doesn't keep a record of our wrongs, become easily angered, or display his love in a self-seeking manner. Instead, his love has always been committed to us. So committed, in fact, that he gave up his Son into death so that our sins of lovelessness might be washed away.



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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.

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Birthdays

Mark Mueller	5/10
Ryanne Rodgers	5/16
Chase Severson	5/16
Grady Severson	5/16
Aspen Bue	5/22
Macy Johnson	5/23
Kirk Goetzka	5/30

Anniversaries

Ken & Jannen Folgers	5/1
Matt & Toni Anderson	5/20
Jerry & Jan Eggen	5/20

WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE

Starting Sunday, May 27, we will once again flip-flop our worship service times for the summer. Therefore, services on the 27th will be:

Please Notice This



Cataract – 8 a.m.

and

Black River Falls – 9:45 a.m.

These times will continue through Sunday, September 2.



Looking Ahead in May

May 6 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Focus – The Easter Effect: Lives that Reflect Christ's Love

Readings: Acts 9:36-42; 1 John 4:1-11; John 15:9-17

May 10 – Ascension Service

Focus – Falling within the Easter season as an important event in the life of Jesus is his ascension into heaven on the 40th day after his resurrection. The Festival of Ascension emphasizes the truth that Jesus is in control over everything for the good of his believers, and will certainly come back to take his believers to the heaven he has prepared for them. We have opportunity to celebrate Jesus' ascension with a worship service on May 10, at 6:30 p.m. in Black River Falls.

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:16-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 13 – Confirmation

Focus – The "strengthening" given in directed Bible study and publicly acknowledged in a ceremony in which an individual publicly confesses faith in Jesus and unity of faith with the body of believers. This confession assures others the confirmands are ready for Holy Communion.

May 20 – Pentecost

Focus – Give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Without his work we would still be "dry bones," unfit for God's heavenly kingdom!

Readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21; John 14:25-27

May 27 – Trinity Sunday

Focus – On this day we remember that our God, the only true God, reveals himself as one God in three persons.

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Romans 8:14-17; John 3:1-17

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO...

Macy Johnson and Malachi Neumann

who will be confirmed in their Christian faith on Sunday, May 13.

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.

5. Fundraising – why don't we do it as a congregation?

Have you ever asked that question? Perhaps you've visited other churches that have done it and wondered why we don't. While it is true that the Bible does not say, "you shall not have fundraisers," there are a number of biblical principles of stewardship that lead us to a decision about fundraising.

First of all, God wants our offerings and gifts to him to be given in response to His love for us in Christ: *"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)*. But when you think about fundraisers, do you see that as the attitude behind the giving? Or, do we see in the way fundraising is carried out that giving is actually done in order to receive something in return?

Secondly, God wants our offerings and gifts to come from a willing and cheerful heart: *"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)*. Once again when you think about fundraising within the church, can we see how it may easily open the door for giving to be done reluctantly, guiltily, or even out of a feeling of duty?

Finally, with all this said, there is something we need to keep in mind. For us to have a special effort to raise funds for a special purpose is not wrong. In fact, we could say it is good practice. Just look at the Apostle Paul when he gathered money on his missionary journey – *"Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do" (2 Corinthians 16:1 – read the rest of the chapter to see Paul's gospel motivation for giving)*. Also consider King David as he encouraged the nation of Israel to support the building of the temple *(1 Chronicles 29:1-9)*. In both situations, the motive and encouragement for giving was always love for the Savior. It was always encouraged from a willing heart. It was repeatedly stressed that giving is a spiritual matter. For a gift or offering, then, to be dependent upon getting something in return; or for the giving to be motivated by a slick campaign or a feeling of duty ends up being a gimmick – and our Lord doesn't need gimmicks.

It is for these reasons that we have stayed away from freewill offerings at Lenten meals and refrain from having bake sales and bazaars to fund our ministry. Giving is a spiritual matter. It is one that God wants to come from the heart.

Now you know.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Summary

April 16, 2018

Call to Order

The meeting opened at 6:00p.m. 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 VICARIOUS ATONEMENT.

Present: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Jerry Kirchman, Brad Rahmlow, Dale Jessie, Cody Heller.

Elder's report

- Garrett gave an update on the recent Elder's meeting. They are actively looking for a fourth member of the Elder's Committee.

Pastor's report

- Pastor reviewed a statistical report for the month of March.
- Pastor reviewed a statistical report for the first quarter of the year to be reviewed at the Voter's meeting.
- Motion to approve the purchase of instruments for the Jesus Cares worship service. MSC to approve \$30.
- Conference Update
 - * Synod Offerings-Gifts to synod were higher than ever before (+1%).
 - * Vacancies in our Wisconsin Synod
 - * Pastoral Vacancies-125
 - * Teaching Vacancies-181
 - * New Movie-"To The Ends of the Earth"-will feature the apostle Paul and his mission work in Philippi.
 - * Standing Up For Children-The Synod is encouraging all WELS churches and schools to establish a child protection policy.
 - * The Church Council will look into this with Synod help.

Financial Report

- Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$6,371.42 through the end of March. MSC to accept financial report for March, 2018.

Old Business

- Pastor continues to be charged with researching and purchase a computer with outside help. Will do so very soon.

New Business

- Church picnic-June 24th
 - * Church Council to provide main course of Brats and Hot dogs.
- Church and grounds cleaning at Cataract-May 19th

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer. The next Council Meeting will be held in BRF on May 21, 2018 at 6:00pm. The next Congregational meeting will be held in BRF on April 22, 2018 at 1:00pm.

Recorded By Brad Rahmlow



ASCENSION SERVICE
Thursday, May 10th, at 6:30
p.m.
in Black River Falls.

SPRING CLEANING

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 "landscape brigade." We will meet the second Saturday of each month, April 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. Our next brigade event will take place on **Saturday, May 12.**

SPRING CLEAN-UP AT CATARACT

When: **Saturday May 19** – 9 a.m.

What: Cleaning of inside and out

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



*Jesus Cares
 Corner*

Jesus Cares Ministries Bible Class

(held at a local group home)

Tuesday May 29 6 PM

Contact Mark Mueller for more info or to volunteer

715-670-0076

JESUS CARES WORSHIP AT THE CROSS

Our congregation held its first Worship at the Cross service on Monday, March 26. Our second was Monday, April 23. These services are 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.

We will hold another Worship at the Cross service on **Tuesday, May 22.** It will be held at 6 p.m. at our Black River Falls location. This month we will also include a craft time after our service. If you would like to be a volunteer in this new 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.

3RD ANNUAL WELS NIGHT AT THE LOGGERS

THE WHEN: This year's date is Sunday, June 17, 2018 as the Loggers take on the Bismarck Larks. The gates open at 4:00 p.m. at Copeland Park in La Crosse for a 5:05 p.m. game time.

THE COST: Ticket price is \$7.00+tax (\$7.39) for a bleacher back seat.

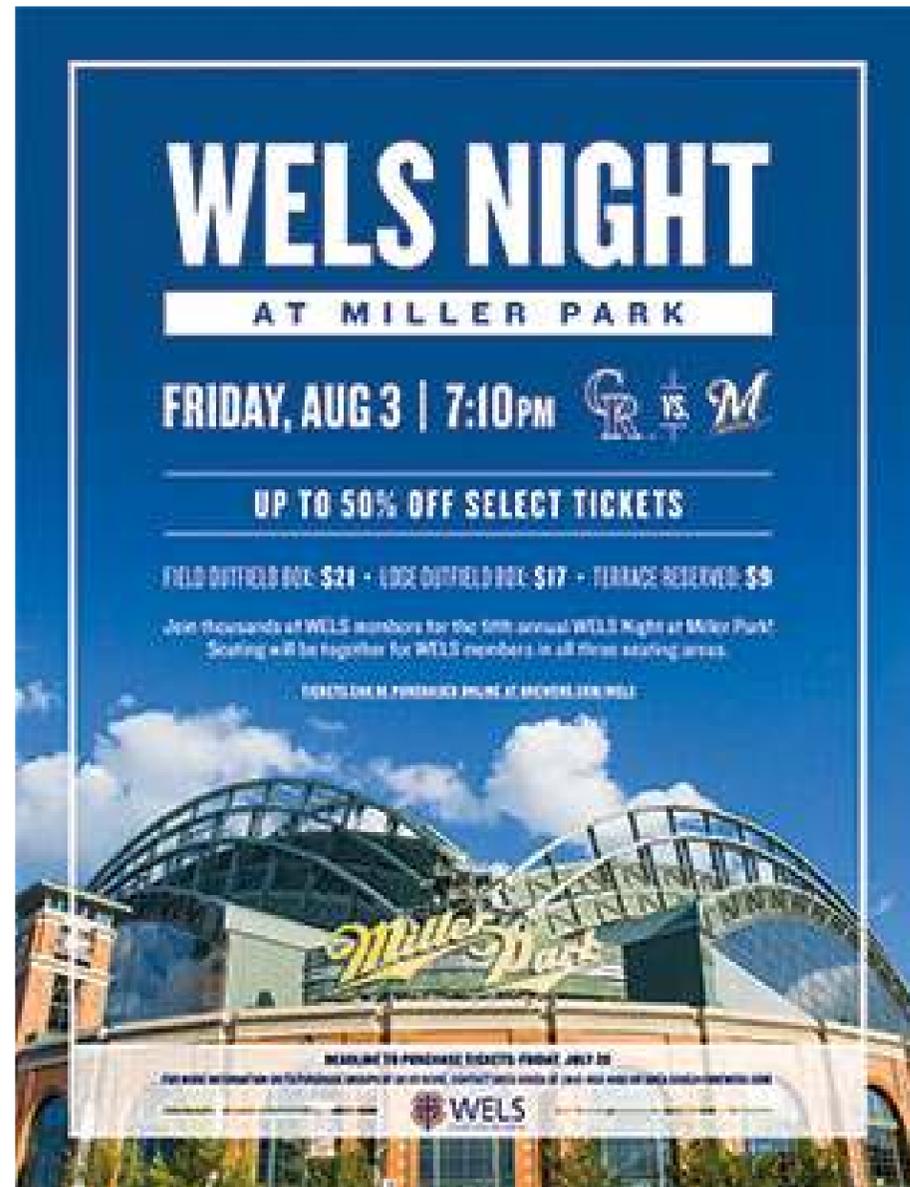
THE HOW: There are 2 ways to purchase tickets.

- 1) Like last year, you may mail a check, made out to "La Crosse Loggers", to: Carla Korthals; 4250 Cty Hwy BC; Sparta, WI 54656. She will either mail you the tickets, deliver your tickets, or have them ready for you on game day at the Logger's 'Will Call' booth at the entrance to the park. Please let her know your preference.
- 2) New this year, if you wish to purchase with a credit card, you may talk to Chris Callaway in the Logger's office at (608) 796-9553. Your ticket(s) will then be picked up at the 'Will Call' booth on game day.

PLEASE NOTE: Whichever way you choose to order your tickets, if you wish to sit together as a group, please submit your request at one time. Tickets will be given on a first received, first served basis. Ticket requests, with payment, must be to Carla (or the Logger office) by Wednesday, June 6, 2018.

Check out more information on the bulletin board!





Central Africa Medical Mission - Lutheran Mobile Clinic (Malawi) April 2018

It is still the rainy season in Malawi with hit or miss afternoon showers most days. February and March had regular rains for crops but there was an unusually dry period in January, such that fields of maize (the staple crop here) failed to grow. Some people planted a second crop and we see some healthy maize fields which will soon be ready to harvest. It is the right amount of moisture at the right time which can determine whether Malawians go hungry next year or not. But where there is standing water, mosquitos thrive, and as they are the vector for malaria parasites getting into people's bloodstreams, malarial illness increases. In March the LMC staff have treated over 1200 patients who tested positive for malaria, with a total number of patients seen for all reasons totaling nearly 5,000.

As part of the Malawian Nursing Registration process, the nurse in charge must initially spend time in the government hospital working on various wards. As challenging as these shifts are, I am always reminded that the Lutheran Mobile Clinic is helping to keep children and adults out of the hospital. The primary health care we do is focused on prevention using screening, immunization, education and early treatment for things like malnutrition, diarrhea, and anemia, as well as malaria. Pregnant women and their babies are healthier due to being seen at our antenatal clinic, receiving insecticide treated mosquito nets, iron and folic acid, tetanus vaccine, screening for HIV, and malaria treatment as needed. The devastating consequences I have seen in the hospital of malaria- severe anemia from destruction of red blood cells, very low blood glucose, damage to the brain and other organs, and infections such as pneumonia, are less likely to happen due to the care our clinic provides in four different villages outside of Lilongwe.

Having been a part of CAMM in Malawi in the 1980's, and returning now, I am again familiar with the feeling that there is always something to trust God for. It may be the traffic and dangerous roads or it may be having a full staff each day we go to clinic. It could be having the needed medicines and test kits available for our work, or it might be having electricity available to keep our vaccines cold. It is certainly also trusting Him for the health and safety of loved ones in the US. We are always thankful for each day's end where we have seen answered prayers and abundant grace. Your prayers make a difference.

My husband Gary will be joining me this week to start his orientation to become the clinic administrator for the next 3 years. We intend to continue the good stewardship that the previous administrators have done with the very careful use of funds, thus managing to keep the budget balanced despite no longer having government help for our staff salaries. Your financial gifts are generous, timely and necessary. The pill bottles used for dispensing liquid medicine, sunscreen for albino children, cards and letters are much appreciated.

I am looking forward to worshipping at a the Easter service in Mwaleloumwe, one of the villages we serve. May the good news of Jesus continue to be spread both in Zambia and Malawi through our Lutheran pastors, medical clinics and those of you at home who sustain this gospel outreach.

Yours in Christ,

Beth Evans - Nurse in Charge of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic

The Messenger is published monthly for the congregation and friends of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church. It's 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 addresses:

pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com

muellerlaura@hotmail.com

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

BIBLE CLASSES & SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday morning Bible Class and Sunday School
in Black River Falls will meet May 6, 13, and 20.
The last Sunday for Bible Class in Cataract is May 20.