



CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

October 2022



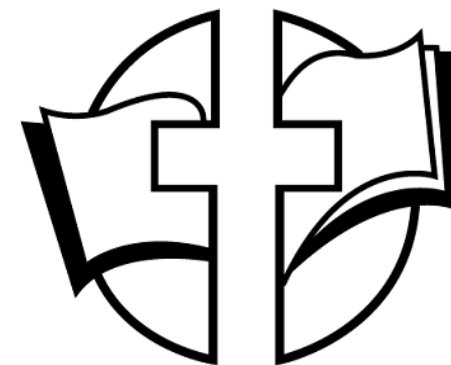
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is summer season here in Malawi and most trees are empty as leaves are falling off due to very high temperatures. People are flocking to Salima district during the weekends to enjoy swimming in the fresh waters of Lake Malawi. October is also the time that people start to enjoy one of the country's favorite fruits, mangos, and as I am writing now, I have a fresh mango by my side.

In the month of March this year, we had an outbreak of cholera here in Malawi, which started in Machinga district with one case. This cholera has been spreading from one place to another due to the use of unsafe water, poor food hygiene, low latrine coverage. Current updates show that the total number of the cholera cases is 3,623 with 105 deaths. The Malawi government, through the Ministry of Health, has put in place measures that will help prevent cholera cases. These include community sensitization on prevention and control of cholera, administration of oral cholera vaccine, pot to pot chlorination of water in places where there is no safe water, and engagement with local leaders to facilitate latrine construction and usage. Not only that, but the Malawi government is also setting up treatment centers in the affected areas.

Lilongwe, the district in Malawi where we are based, has also been affected by the cholera outbreak. However, no cholera case or any suspected case has been reported from the areas that we serve, either at Chiwamba area where we have our Suzi, Msambo and Thunga Clinics, or Nathenje area where there is the Mwalaulomwe clinic. As a clinic we are working hand in hand with the government health surveillance assistants who also happen to be the ones that we work with at our clinics. We are sensitizing the people in the communities on how to prevent and control cholera cases such as the use of safe water, food hygiene, the use of latrines, frequent hand washing just to mention a few. It is our prayer and hope that God will protect our people in the communities and Malawi from this cholera outbreak.

In the villages we serve, the needs of our patients have not changed. As a Christ centered Clinic, our patients need to hear the Word of God and that is why we always hold devotions before clinic starts every day. We thank God that our Pastors, maintenance men and volunteers are able to share this Word of God with the people on each day of clinic. After the devotion, the medical needs of the people are attended to and medication is administered using both pill bags and pill bottles which are donated by the well-wishers across the world. Recently, we have received parcels containing different things such as the pill bottles, sunscreen, baby blankets, clothes, hats, cloth masks just to mention a few. These baby clothes are being distributed in the communities that we serve during clinic days. These people are very happy upon receiving these things and all they say is "Zikomo kwambiri Mulungu akudalitseni" meaning thank you so much and God bless you. I would like to thank all our donors and well-wishers on all the good things that they do for the people of Malawi and may God continue blessing them.

Your Sister in Christ,
Violet Chikwatu - Nurse in Charge
Malawi Lutheran Mobile Clinic



The Messenger

The Messenger

November 2022

Am I good enough to go to heaven?

Mom went over to the slow cooker where the Thanksgiving turkey had been all day. As the lid was taken off, a shriek filled the air. The slow cooker had been unplugged hours before to make room for Uncle Bob's famous sweet potato soufflé.

Tears filled Mom's eyes. "My dinner is ruined!" she cried. Dad chimed in, "Oh, honey. I am sure that it is good enough." However, the half-baked turkey was not good enough, nor was it safe to eat.

In our lives, we probably hear or say those words often. "Oh, the lawn looks good enough. I can wait another couple of days to mow." "Oh, the house isn't *that* dirty. It is good enough for now." "My job was done well enough for today. I am going home!"

What about when it is quitting time here in this life? Are we sure that we are going home to heaven? Are we

good enough?

We may be individuals who settle for good enough more than we like to admit. However, we have a God who doesn't settle for anything but perfection. Jesus says, "Be perfect . . . as your heavenly

Even if we try hard and work at being kind, good, and perfect, we still fail. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

So, now what will happen to us? Is our hope to live forever in heaven with God ruined?

Thanks to Jesus Christ, our Savior, the answer is, "No." We do have hope because Jesus has forgiven our sins by dying on the cross, and he has declared us to be innocent by rising from the dead. Because of what Jesus has done, every time that God looks at us, he sees us "holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation" (Colossians 1:22).

Are you good enough to go to heaven? Jesus did not just make you good enough, but he made you perfect! Through faith, you receive "the gift of God [which] is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).



Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

So are we good enough to go to heaven?

God takes the "lid" off of our hearts and tells us what he sees. "Every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood" (Genesis 8:21).

Thank You

Dear Christian Friends,

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Fall is here, leaves are falling, and school is back in session. Christian Family Solutions (CFS) counselors are busy serving 60 schools, both in person and via our MAP (Member Assistance Program) video conferencing. In the first quarter of the school year, we have seen a **45% increase in inquiries** over last year...and a marked decrease in our no-show rate. Students want help and they are taking TIME out of their busy lives to seek it!

Thank you for giving our counselors TIME in those schools. Each counseling session is an opportunity for our counselors to share God's love with students.

Your gift is making that possible by:

- Removing financial barriers to Christian mental health care
- Providing screenings at partner schools to identify youth and teens at risk
- Supporting our current CFS therapists with spiritual and professional growth to integrate Christian truths into their counseling work

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of your gift of \$608. Thank you – and please pray that the Lord will bless our **shared and vital ministry!**

Blessings,

Pastor James Mattek



CORRECTION ON THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

Last month, the Newsletter stated that our Thanksgiving service would be in Cataract. That was a misprint. It will be at our Black River Falls campus this year.

So, we will gather for a service of Thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Eve, November 23. The service will be held at our Black River Falls campus. The service will be at 6:30 pm.

A pie and ice cream social will follow the service.

CARE PACKAGES

We will be collecting items for our college/military/away from home members once again this November. We will be putting 7 boxes together. Each of our locations will have a box for the items we need. A list of what is needed will be in the gathering area. What a wonderful opportunity for us to encourage one another and live a life of love!

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary October 17, 2022

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a bible study of the 7th Commandment

ATTENDANCE

⇒ Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Grady Severson, Kirk Goetzka, Dave Spaude, Brad Markhardt, Tyler Jessie, Rick Treptow (via phone)

ELDER'S REPORT

⇒ Roger Olson was called to his heavenly home September 29th
⇒ "A God Lived Life" has begun. It is a synod distributed program aimed at our Stewardship to God in truth, talents, hospitality, and treasures.

PASTOR'S REPORT

⇒ Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of September

- Highlighted was that the average worship attendance in September was 80 (82 including livestream). Also highlighted was that average Sunday Bible Class attendance in September was 40 (this includes both campuses)
- There will be special worship opportunities on Thursday November 17th for the Deer Hunter's Service and Wednesday November 23rd for Thanksgiving. Both of these services will be held in Black River Falls.
- Pastor Korthals will be approached about leading the remaining 2 "A God Lived Life" Bible Studies in Black River Falls. If he is unable to do so, one of the regular lay leaders will lead the study.
- Please fill out the time and talents survey that was emailed to you if you haven't already!
- There will be a door offering for Christian Aid and Relief on November 27th.

FINANCIAL REPORT

⇒ Tyler presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$13,810.39 through the end of September 2022. MSC to accept financial report for September, 2022

SPECIAL REPORTS

⇒ Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt

- Christmas Crafts for kids will be Saturday November 12th, please look for postcards and bring your children
- A Festival of Friendship will be held November 17th/20th. Postcard invitations will be made available to give to your friends and family.

OLD BUSINESS

⇒ Council reviewed possible church council candidates. Please prayerfully consider serving on the church council if approached.
⇒ The congregational vision timeline meeting will be held November 28th at 6pm in BRF.
⇒ A fall offering opportunity was presented from our Western Wisconsin District Mission Board. It is for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Beloit, WI and the new Little Lambs Childcare Center that will be opened there. The council voted to support this ministry with a gift of \$500 to the aid in their outreach effort. MSC

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer
Recorded by Garrett Jessie



Black River Falls Location
N6598 County Rd A
Black River Falls WI 54615

Cataract Location
N6774 Acorn Ave
Cataract WI 54656

N6774 Acorn Ave.
Sparta, WI 54656

Phone 715-284-0772

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

BIRTHDAYS

Leah Reetz	11/1
Makaela Kiesow	11/8
Laura Goetzka	11/9
Audrina Mueller	11/14
Rita Selin	11/15
Wyatt Folgers	11/15
Jack Bue	11/22
Nicole Schwartzenberger	11/24
Scott Templeton	11/28
Mark Hanson	11/30

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Nikki Mueller	11/14
Brad + Annette Markhardt	11/16
Jerry + Nancy Kirchman	11/26
Les + Wendy Mlsna	11/28

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.

Building Bridges for Christ Friendship Sunday

If one wanted to describe the process of friendship or relational evangelism in a word picture, it could be likened to “bridge building.” In this picture a bridge equals a relationship.

Someone has described the essence of life as relationships with people, and the better those relationships are the more meaningful life can be. Each relationship with another person is like a bridge between two people over which words and actions and feelings travel.

One focus in building bridges is with people who do not know and confess Jesus as their Savior and/or those who are not presently involved and active in a Christian church. How many such contacts do you have in your neighborhood, at your place of work or school, in your daily and weekly social contacts? Count them. You'll be amazed at how many there really are and at how easily you could multiply their number by just keeping your eyes and ears open!

Now focus your thoughts for a moment on just one of those relationships and think of it in terms of a bridge. Have someone in mind? Write down his or her name. Is the bridge of your relationship strong enough at this point to carry the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus over to that person? If not, how about inviting them to church?

For this reason, we will be having a Friendship Sunday on the “weekend” of Thursday, November 17 and Sunday, November 20. Think of that person you wrote down. How about inviting them to church?



A life of hospitality

So far in our God-Lived Life Challenge we have challenged ourselves to grow in our life of being a disciple as well as in our life lived for others. This month, we look at the God-lived life as one that opens our lives to others. As we invite people into our lives and our homes, God gives us opportunities to share Jesus as we build relationships with them.

Our challenge card this month will focus on living a life of hospitality—opening our hearts and homes to others. How did Jesus show “radical” hospitality? Think of a time someone showed you radical hospitality. How did that make you feel? How can you reflect the love of Jesus by showing that level of hospitality to someone? How can you be different, like Jesus was different?

May God bless us as we live a God-lived life, loving others!

DOOR OFFERING

WELS Christian Aid and Relief

When the disciples asked Jesus about signs that would accompany his coming again, do you remember what Jesus said? He said, *"There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains"* (Matthew 24:7,8). To that we could add fires and floods and hurricanes and tsunamis. Jesus also mentioned wars.

Every year we seem to see more and more of these things. It shouldn't surprise us. At the same time, these natural disasters and hardships caused by war also give believers a wonderful opportunity to build bridges with others that then opens the door to share God's Word with them. That is the whole idea behind our WELS Christian Aid and Relief. This WELS ministry provides humanitarian support to congregations and areas affected by natural disasters and other catastrophic financial events. In doing so, doors are opened to sharing Jesus. The WELS Christian Aid and Relief is working to help those affected by hurricane Ian and elsewhere.

In a desire to support this ministry and to support this work in places we might not be able to go, we will have a door offering to support WELS Christian Aid and Relief on Sunday, November 27. May God lead us to examine the blessings he has given us to see how we might use our blessings to be a blessing to other.



Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include discussing next year's community concert. Our meeting will take place Sunday, November 6, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.



SPARTA FOOD PANTRY

We will once again be collecting food for the Sparta Food Pantry this year. During the month of November you can donate non-perishables to help those in need in the Sparta area. There will be a box for this at both worship locations.



WORSHIP AT THE CROSS

The next worship at the cross will be Saturday, November 19, at 1 pm at our Black River Falls campus.



JESUS CARES MINISTRIES
Worship at the Cross

Let There Be L:ight

An Advent Social at Faith Lutheran Church

December 4, 2022

2:00 p.m.

Advent Social is an opportunity for women of all ages to set aside the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation and focus their minds and hearts on the birth of Christ. It is a beautiful time filled with Scripture readings, narration, prayer, songs of praise and Christian fellowship.

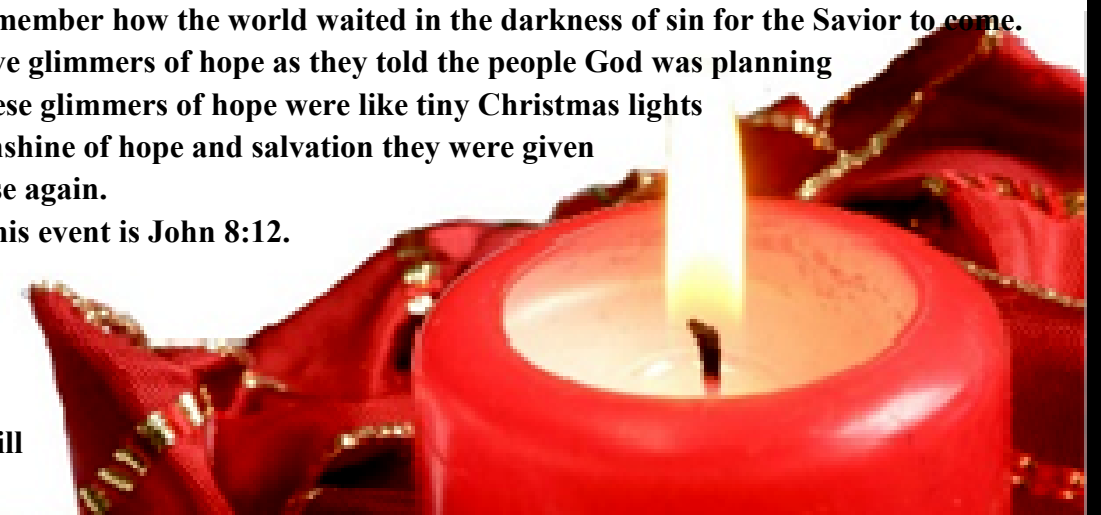
Advent is a time for us to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming. We want our focus to be on Jesus throughout this season, but all too often it gets caught up with the preparations in our homes, churches or communities.

Advent is a wonderful time to think about light. For those of us who live in the northern hemisphere, we are approaching the winter solstice when we will experience the fewest daylight hours of the year. As the days get shorter, we see more and more Christmas lights sparkling on houses and in yards. During Advent, we also have added light in our churches as we put up a Christmas tree strung with lights and enjoy another candle being lit on the Advent wreath each week. While the world becomes darker, we experience more and more Christmas light.

During Advent, we remember how the world waited in the darkness of sin for the Savior to come. God sent prophets to give glimmers of hope as they told the people God was planning to send a Savior. But these glimmers of hope were like tiny Christmas lights compared to the full sunshine of hope and salvation they were given when Jesus died and rose again.

Our theme verse for this event is John 8:12.

"Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' "



Interestingly, the Bible begins and ends with verses about light. Light is an important part of the first chapter of the first book of the Bible, the last chapter of the last book of the Bible, and many verses in between. Our program today will look at how these Bible verses about light are tied to the hope we have in Jesus.

This is our 10th year of Advent Social at Faith Lutheran Church. You are invited! Feel free to invite a friend or relative, acquaintance or neighbor. Set aside the date and time, Sunday, December 4, 2:00 p.m. at our Black River Falls location.

After the devotion, those interested may participate in a homemade cookie / candy etc. exchange. If you choose to participate in the exchange please bring 6 dozen homemade treats to share, the recipe, and a container to take your treats home in! This year, we are also preparing Care packages for members in need. We will make copies of all the recipes at church. Please note that if you do not wish to be part of the treat exchange, you are still welcome to come and enjoy the devotion, fellowship and cookie samples!



FiSH Chicken Foot and Chili Dump!

The FiSH group (Faith's Social Harbor) invites adults for a fun evening playing Chicken Foot and enjoying a Chili Dump! Chicken Foot is a fun & easy to learn domino game. Bring your favorite chili & we'll dump them all together! Be ready to laugh and enjoy some relaxing fellowship and comforting food. Experience is NEVER required with any of our activities – come, learn and have fun! We'll meet Saturday, November 12, 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.

Congregational Vision Timeline Review

Monday, November 28 @ 6 pm in Black River Falls

What is our congregation doing well? What should we continue? Where could we improve as a congregation? Is our ministry stuck or in need of direction? What ministries would benefit our congregation and our community as we carry out the gospel mission of sharing God's good news with all of creation?

Those are some of the questions that get asked at a congregational vision timeline open forum. **BUT YOU WANT TO KNOW SOMETHING**, those questions get answered best when we have a large portion of our congregation involved in the conversation—men, women, and youth alike! Everyone has unique thoughts and ideas. Some may see a need that others didn't.

Ministry can stall for a variety of reasons: misplaced priorities, ineffective meetings, lack of vision, or opportunity overwhelm. Any one of these can leave us feeling frustrated and helpless, especially when it impedes sharing the gospel. But ministry moves forward when we have healthy individuals and leaders with clear direction and the tools we need to serve others.

We invite you to be part of this important direction setting process by coming to our congregational vision timeline review scheduled for Monday, November 28 at 6 pm at our Black River Falls campus. Come for the entire time or just part of it. Come with ideas for gospel ministry within our congregation. Come to support your fellow members and leaders in this vital work that God has given us to do. This open forum review will not last longer than 2 hours.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE

Starting Sunday, November 27 and going through Sunday, December 18, the children in Black River Falls will be practicing for the Christmas Eve service during the regular Sunday School/Bible Class hour. There will be no Bible Study during this time. Please note, the children are already beginning to learn parts and hymns in Sunday School, so it is important for them to be here each week in order to be able to proclaim the Christmas message well.

DEER HUNTER WORSHIP SERVICE



As Christians, we want to put God first. That is our desire in all areas of life. At the same time, there are many things in life that the Lord has enabled us to do that are not contrary to his Word. One of those is enjoying the hunting season. However, when hunting takes first place over God's Word, there is a problem.

But thanks be to God! Because of the Christian freedom we have, you have opportunity to enjoy the hunting season while still putting God first. That is the purpose of a special worship service on Thursday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. at our Black River Falls campus. This service allows us to gather around Word and Sacrament on Thursday, and if we so desire, go out hunting on Sunday morning. Yes, we want God to be first in our lives. May we make use of this opportunity to do just that.



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Your children are invited to join us for our annual Christmas Crafts for Kids event. This will take place on Saturday, November 12. They will enjoy Christmas cookies, a Christmas devotion, Christmas music, and several fun Christmas craft stations.

A few notes to consider:

- * **For ages 4-13**
- * **From 9-11 a.m.**
- * **Registration forms can be found online or on the table in the gathering area**
- * **Postcards are available at church for you to take and distribute**

FROM THE LIBRARY

"Read your Bible."

"Where should I start?"

The book, Bible Reader's Guide, by Adolph Fehlauer can help. It is found in the "Devotions" section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at our BRF location. The 400 Bible readings in this book take you through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The readings show you the important messages revealed to us by God in his Word. Each reading states the content, gives a section of the Bible to be read, and ends with a prayer or hymn verse.

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.

