



Faith Lutheran Church  
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We're on the Web!  
www.faithwels.com



## HELP WANTED

We are looking for some people to help run the livestream portion of our worship service. This would involve either helping run the PowerPoint during the service or running the audio video equipment during the service. If you would be interested in helping out in both areas, that would be great too.

### What all would be asked of you?

**PowerPoint** –You would be asked to advance the slides on the computer that correspond with the bulletin as the worship service goes along. This would simply require the repeated pressing of a keyboard key or clicker. Training would be made available so that you would feel comfortable.

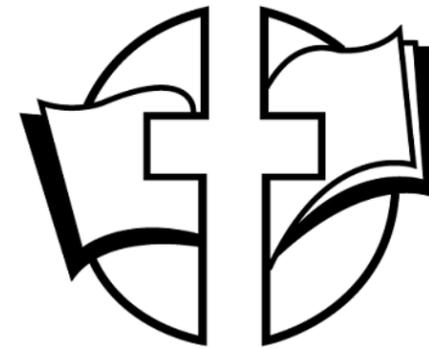
**Audio/Video** – This would require learning how to start, set-up, and run the projector, computer, camera, and audio equipment that is set up in back of church. However, before you dismiss this as being too difficult, there is a handbook that helps walk you through this step by step. You would not be “thrown to the wolves” right away, but would have opportunity to learn how it works before ever running it for a church service. During the first few times of running it for a worship service, others would be available to help you if you have any questions. **One of the biggest things with this is the willingness and ability to arrive to worship 30 minutes early to make sure everything is set up and ready to go.**

If you would be willing to help in one or both of these areas, please speak with Pastor 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

*The Messenger*

October 2021

## Dress yourself with...Gentleness

What do washing machines, dish soap, a grizzly bear named “Ben,” and *you* have in common? You, the bear, and those other items can all be *gentle*.

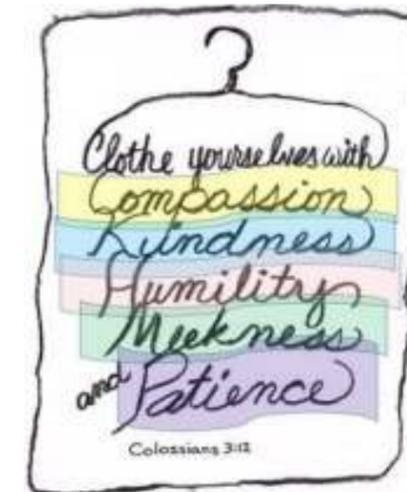
St. Paul encouraged the members of one of his churches, “Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near” (Philippians 4:5).

Too often we associate gentleness with being a wimp. That is not true. Washing machines can rip clothes to shreds. Soaps can irritate the skin. Bears can maul people. And just turn on the news to see what destruction human beings can do.

Nevertheless, we can be gentle. We can learn to be unselfish and considerate in all we do.

Think what the world would be like if everyone showed unselfish consideration for others! There would be no road rage. Children wouldn’t fight over a particular toy. Divorce might even come to a halt.

Unfortunately, we will never be able to be perfectly gentle in this life. That isn’t an excuse, it is a reality. And it is a reality that gives evidence to our sinfulness. But there is good



news, Jesus was perfectly gentle. With a word, Jesus could calm a raging sea or cause a tree to wither. Yet he never failed to heal the sick, preach good news to the poor, and offer forgiveness to the worst of sinners.

Jesus even offers forgiveness to us for the times we have failed to be gentle, those times when we insisted on getting our way and didn’t care whom we hurt to get it. He offers that forgiveness on the basis of his payment for our sins. You see, Jesus doesn’t just say “you are forgiven.” He had to secure forgiveness by paying the penalty for sin. That’s because God’s holiness required that sin be punished. But God

so desires us to be able to be in heaven with him, that he sent his Son to take that punishment so we wouldn’t have to.

So in gentleness, Jesus came. He could have squashed Judas and that crowd who came to arrest him in Gethsemane. But in gentleness he went with them to be a lamb led to slaughter. He could have smashed those who pulled his beard and beat his back. But in gentleness he allowed it so that he could be rejected in our place. He could have exercised his power and broke the wrists of those who nailed him to the cross. But in love he knew his death was the only way to pay the penalty for sin, so that all who believe in him could be saved.

When we think of Jesus’ willingness to forgive us, it makes us want to be more like him – gentle and caring. So let us continue to listen often to his gentleness that is proclaimed in worship and Bible Class. As we do, we will bask in the beauty of our forgiveness and be strengthened to see that we have been saved not to go sin, but to go live as our Savior lived.

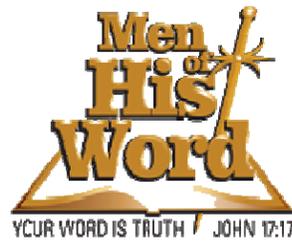
# JUBILEE DEBT REDUCTION OFFERING

**WE CAN DO THE INCREDIBLE**

## 2021 MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE

“I know the plans I have for you,” God says.

Wouldn't it be nice if he let us in on the specifics of those plans? It's true that there is so much about God's plans for my life that I cannot see. But there is One who can. One who loved you by dying on a cross and now assures you that his thoughts towards you are one of peace and his plans for your life are ones of love. Let's be encouraged by our hope for the future by looking at the things we can see! With God's vision for our future, the MOHW Conference provides opportunities and resources for men to grow spiritually, using God's Word to empower and equip men to carry out their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities, and the world. This year's theme is “GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR FUTURE.”



Whether you attend for the keynote speaker (David Scharf, Professor of Theology at Martin Luther College in New Ulm), the relevant, thought-provoking breakout sessions (12 to choose from), or the worship experience with 300 other men (with Koine', the worship band), God's Word will speak to you. The 6th Annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Mayo Civic Center in Downtown Rochester MN on Saturday, October 23rd, 2021. Additional details and online registration are available at [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org) for the first 300 men. Adult registration fee is \$50 and youth registration fee is \$30 – These rates increase to \$60 for adults and \$40 for youth after October 17th. Please join us for a day of fellowship in God's Word that you will not soon forget!

**The Faith teachers will meet Sunday, October 3 AND Sunday October 24, both from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the BRF church building.**



### CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS MEETING

**Oct 31 at 11:15 am at our Black River Falls campus**

Please mark your calendar and set aside time for this important work. Our next congregational voters meeting will be Sunday, October 31, at 11:15 am at our Black River Falls Campus. At that meeting final information will be given about our Jubilee Debt Reduction Offering, and final decisions will be made about items involving our mortgage refinance.

Bob Parr lives in the suburbs, punches the clock as an insurance salesman, and battles a bulging waistline. Clark Kent gets stressed out from the pressures of life as a newspaper reporter and his crush on Lois Lane. Science-savvy Peter Parker does his homework and looks after his Aunt May. Each of these all-too-ordinary individuals has been summoned to, more or less, save the world. Talk about pressure.

Sometimes we might think there is a lot of pressure on us when congregational leadership comes to us and lays a need before us. Is that how we felt when we received information in June about our Jubilee Debt Reduction Offering? Is that how we felt when we heard that the leaders were hoping to receive \$100,000 to put toward our mortgage payment? I pray pressure is not what you felt. Instead, I pray you saw an opportunity - an opportunity to see God at work in the fulfillment of his promises: *“If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?”* (Romans 8:31,32)

God is for us! Notice that this is a statement of fact. The FACT is God has already shown himself to be on our side. He gave his Son on our behalf. The argument that is made in those words is one from the greater to the lesser. Since God did the greater thing of giving his Son into death to win our salvation for us, won't he now also do the “lesser” and “easier” things in the life such as giving us all the spiritual and temporal necessities of life? The answer is yes, and Jesus is the guarantee of that.

He did not spare his one and only Son, but gave him up into death, even the death of a cross, for us. That takes our breath away. God is for us. He is on our side. With that truth standing behind us, we can do the incredible.

To date, God's people here at Faith have given \$41,912 to this special offering. This month wraps up our Jubilee Debt Reduction Offering. We will have special services on October 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. You will receive an emailed devotion in the middle of the month. You will hear one final ministry moment from your congregational leaders. How close will we get to our goal? Will we surpass it? We will have to wait and see. But rejoice in the fact that what we don't have to wait and see is whether or not God loves us. Celebrate that we don't have to wait and see whether God will provide each of us with what we need in this life. That's incredible, and that gives us the power to do the incredible.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, we praise you as our Savior and Lord. When we are distracted by the comforts and concerns of this world, attract our devotion with the wonder of your promises. Then, give us courage to act with determined urgency, contribute with joyful generosity, and pray with unceasing fervor. We can do this because you loved us first. That is incredible! Amen.

**Through September 26, God's people here at Faith have offered \$41,912 towards our goal of \$100,000 for our Jubilee Debt Reduction Offering**

## Attention Bakers

If you have a penchant for baking, a servant's heart, and love to partake of the bountiful baked goods God continuously supplies us with, we could use your gifts and talents. We could use some treats to be used for Sunday morning. We take all kinds. We take all amounts. Just place them in containers and put them in the freezer at church and mark the container with your name (to get your container back), it's contents and the date baked.

Don't bake, yet want to contribute? Many of the local bakeries have wonderful selections that we have used in the past also. If you have any questions, please speak with Kari Kellen. Thank you!



## BIRTHDAYS

Nathan Mlsna	10/4
William Rahmlow	10/4
Vincent Schwartzenberger	10/7
Dale Jessie	10/9
Gale Jessie	10/9
Tyrone Laufenberg	10/10
Isabel Neumann	10/14
Eric Markhardt	10/23
Gary Johnson	10/23
Karen Noard	10/28
Richard Selin	10/29

## ANNIVERSARIES

Gale + Karen Jessie	10/6
Bill + Karen Yahnke	10/9
Garrett + Maggie Jessie	10/17
Denis + Candy Janke	10/21



It's not the same, is it?

COVID-19 changed everything for our congregation. We learned how to worship online from home. We used virtual ways to stay connected to each other—to maintain our sense of Christian community. We also adapted how we serve each other and our neighbors while remaining socially distanced. But it's just not the same, is it?

When we look at the blessings from the pandemic, one of the biggest is that we were reminded in so many ways of the joy we experience when God's people **GATHER**. There is just no replacement for it.

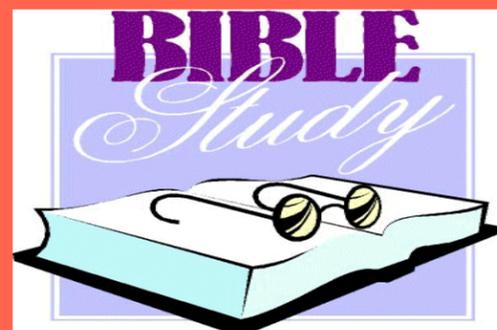
So let's celebrate the fact that we are able to gather together again for worship. Let's celebrate the joy we experience as a family of believers when we worship together, fellowship with each other, serve together, and take the Lord's Supper side by side.

We are setting aside Sunday, December 5, to do just that - to celebrate as a church family and praise God on a very special celebration Sunday. Psalm 26:8 says, "I love the house where you live, O LORD, the place where your glory dwells." Please put it on your calendar and do everything possible to be here for that celebration Sunday. We are really hoping to have 100% of our members there on that Sunday.

Look for more details coming in November. It will also be the perfect opportunity to reach out to others with a personal invitation to join us as we gather and praise God for all of his blessings.

### Hard Sayings of Jesus

*This Bible Class will answer the "why did Jesus say that" and "what did Jesus mean by that" questions that sometimes arise with some of his words. In studying these sayings, we will be given a better understanding of his Word as well as added confidence as we read the gospels on our own.*



### Formula of Concord

*In this study we will answer some timely questions: What are confessions? Why do we have them? What are we saying with them? In this study we will discuss some important Bible teachings: Original Sin, Free Will, Salvation, Good Works and more.*

*Did you know that every confirmed member of our congregation confesses acceptance to what is written in the Formula of Concord (The Constitution of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church: Section 2). You are invited to come and learn more clearly what the Bible teaches and what you confess to.*

Black River Falls	Cataract	Black River Falls	Cataract
Wednesdays September 29 – October 20 7 pm	Sundays October 3 – October 24 11 am	Wednesdays October 27 – January 12 7 pm	Sundays November 7 – January 16 11 am

### CELL PHONE VS. THE BIBLE

Have you ever wondered what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we scrolled through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back around to go get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from THE text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we traveled?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?



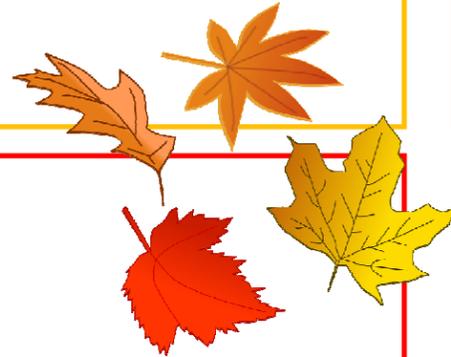
Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected. Jesus has already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think about where our priorities are.

**EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ENJOY A  
FIRE WITH FISH!**

**Oct 9, 6-8 pm**

The FiSH social group invites your whole family to a campfire on Saturday, October 9, from 6-8 p.m. in Black River Falls. We'll have hot dogs, apple cider and s'mores (Diener-sized). Bring a lawn chair if you can.



**YOUTH  
GROUP**

**Oct 24,  
2-5 pm**

In October, our youth group is hoping to participate in a service project. Weather permitting we will help members with a fall clean-up in their yards. We will plan to do this in the afternoon (2-5 pm) on Sunday, October 24.

**BRF LANDSCAPE BRIGADE**

**Oct 9, 8-9 am**

Consider helping the BRF Landscape Brigade on Saturday, October 9, from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

This month we will be putting down mulch, deadheading, and pulling some weeds – basically tucking things in for winter. The Landscape Brigade 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.

**FAITH OUTREACH MEETING**

**Oct 10, 12:30 pm**

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include input on the vision timeline. Our meeting will take place Sunday, October 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.

**LOOKING AHEAD TO  
NOVEMBER**

*Christmas Crafts for Kids will be held Saturday, November 13 at our Black River Falls Campus*

*Thanksgiving Worship will be held Wednesday, November 24 at our Cataract Campus*

*Door Offering for Christian Aid and Relief on Sunday, November 28*

**LOOKING AHEAD TO  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Do you play an instrument? Consider being a part of our mixed instrumental ensemble!**

**Our mixed instrumental ensemble will play during the offering at the Christmas Eve service in Cataract (7 p.m.) and Christmas Day service in Black River Falls (8 a.m.). There will be two group practices: Christmas Eve at 3:15 p.m. and Christmas Day at 7:30 a.m. If you would like to play with this group, please let Brad Markhardt or Pastor Neumann know by October 24.**



**CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION**

**September 2021**



The Lutheran Mobile Clinic has been blessed for the past year by having Vicar- now Pastor Kalima serving the congregations at our Msambo, Suzi and Thunga clinic sites. Pastor Kalima who is a recent graduate from our seminary in Lusaka, can be seen at our clinics ministering to the patients where he has taken particular interest in helping the mothers of children with disabilities. Some of those he has helped, have since started attending his church.

Pastor Kalima recently wrote an article about the Lutheran Mobile Clinic that was published in a magazine called the Malawi Lutheran Christian. The magazine is read by many members of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa (LCCA) - Malawi. Many of those members live outside of the Lilongwe area and may not be aware of the medical mission. I thought I would share the article with you. It was originally written in Chichewa -the local language and translated into English, some grammar and spelling has been fixed. But as much as possible this is Pastor Kalima in his own words.

*The Lutheran Mobile Clinic*

*This is an organization or a group that is standing on its own, it does its work in a hospital setting in cooperation or coordination with the government. This organization is under the One Africa Team (OAT). This mobile clinic has developed a huge bond with LCCA especially in the areas that the mobile clinic is working by helping the sick by giving them the medicines, giving some disabled children wheelchairs and others just helping them with mobility to get to where they get their physiotherapy and also spreading the gospel. This organization is run by Mr Gary Evans and Sister in Charge Beth Evans. When the two leave Malawi for USA of which they will be leaving their roles to two of our LCCA members who will then be running the organization of course with help from Gary as then he will be the Field Director for Malawi and Zambia. The two LCCA members who will take over from Gary and sister Beth are Lusungu Mwambeye as the Clinic Administrator and Violet Chikwatu as Nurse in Charge. As of now about 5 more LCCA members from the surrounding the areas have benefited from this organization through being employed as volunteers to work with the team. This organization also helps to transport patients from the respective clinics in the villages to Kamuzu Central hospital in the event that the patient need extra care.*

*How is the synod benefiting from the mobile clinic?*

*This is the question which most Lutherans in Malawi would ask. But the answer is the Lutheran Mobile clinic is a tool of Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,". There are times where we as the Lutheran synod fail to reach out to other members or non-members through the gospel. But when they came to the clinic, they are able to be preached to and get the spiritual help from the clinic as every morning the clinic holds devotions before starting its services this has helped our parishes such as Mtimaoyera (Msambo), Suzi and Thunga parish to bring in more servants to God.*

*Where is the secret for all this?*

*The answer is God is the answer to all this blessing for He is the reason why we get to have knowledge and power to work and help those in need. I just wanted you to know a little of it but you will read more in the magazine coming soon.*

# Faith Lutheran Church

## Council Meeting Minutes *Summary*

August 30, 2021

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with the council watching and discussing the God's People Gather Roundtable discussion.

### ATTENDANCE

⇒ Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Dave Spaude, Kirk Goetzka, Tyler Jessie, Brad Markhardt, Scott Templeton

### ELDER'S REPORT

⇒ Elders are continuing to reach out to absent members and are planning for God's People Gather Sunday at the start of December.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

- ⇒ Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of July
- ⇒ Council gave pastor permission to attend a symposium on pastoral wellness September 20-21 at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.
- ⇒ Pastor highlighted Bible Class opportunities coming up. He also highlighted the ministry that has resumed at Jackson Correctional Institute.
- ⇒ After some discussion it was decided that, since as a congregation we are part of the Luther High School association, we would seek to promote Luther High more at our campuses.
- ⇒ Pastor asked if the council would have any objection to him having a worship service at Pineview Care Center in Black River Falls on a rotating basis. No objection was made.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

⇒ Tyler presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$5,307.56 through the end of August. MSC to accept financial report for July and August, 2021

### SPECIAL REPORTS

#### Property

⇒ An air conditioning system issue in the fellowship hall in Black River Falls was diagnosed and fixed. One furnace in Black River Falls needs to be serviced before winter.

### NEW BUSINESS

- ⇒ Tyler Jessie, Scott Templeton, and Dave Spaude have been approved as Account Representatives that are able to sign checks at Co-op Credit Union in Black River Falls. MSC
- ⇒ Council discussed church service times and the possibility of pushing back the early church time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

### WHAT IS LWMS?

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) is made up of mission-minded women of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) as well as women belonging to congregations that share fellowship with WELS.

LWMS was formed in 1964 and today is over 800 member congregations organized into 60 circuits throughout North America. Every woman in a member congregation (our congregation here at Faith is a member congregation) is by virtue of her church membership a member of LWMS.

We encourage women to learn about and pray for our mission efforts in North America and around the world and to support those missions with their offerings as we share the privilege and responsibilities of the work our Lord has called us to do.

The work of LWMS is urgent. Though we have the knowledge and comfort of Jesus' gift of salvation, millions of souls do not have that comfort and are in despair. Every day we have the opportunity to share with people the greatest gift, the gift of their Savior. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the early Roman church, **"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14,15)**

JOIN THEM THIS OCTOBER TO LEARN ABOUT AND SUPPORT THIS MISSION WORK!



### LWMS RALLY

The LWMS Fall Rally will meet Thursday, October 21 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kendall, WI. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. and the presentation begins at 1 pm. The presentation will be by Pastor Dan Lewig from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Richland Center. Here is some information about the presentation:

*"So you bought a school." Missionary Daniel Lewig will explain how converting a former elementary school into Bethlehem's first full-time ministry center has created a new door for the gospel and how the new facility is helping the mission congregation build a bridge in the Richland Center community. Come and learn about Bethlehem's ALL Center and the mission work taking place in our regional backyard of Southwest Wisconsin!*

### **FROM THE LIBRARY**



The church history section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at the BRF location has the book, *Luther - Biography of a Reformer* by Frederick Nohl. Through this book, you will learn that Luther was an imperfect man of God who knew his own weaknesses and sins and who did not depend on himself but on 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.