



# GOOD STEWARD RESALE SHOP

(OWNED & OPERATED BY LACROSSE WELS CONGREGATIONS)

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

N6774 Acorn Ave.  
Sparta, WI 54656

Phone: 715-284-0772  
Pastor: Joel Neumann

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

Whatever you do, work at it with  
all your heart, as working for the  
Lord, not for men.  
Colossians 3:23

### WE ARE HIRING

**Store Coordinator**...About 24 hours per week...Leadership...Organizational skills...Communication skills...Able to train others...Good Judgment...Able to lift 50 pounds

**Warehouse Worker**... Work in warehouse and intake area at Good Steward...Transport merchandise (need a valid drivers' license)...Able to lift 50 pounds...Able to store merchandise in an orderly manner...Work in harmony with other people about 24 hours per week.

For more information or to obtain a job description and application form, visit Good Steward Resale Shop, 1930 Rose Street, La Crosse or call 608-779-9763.



*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

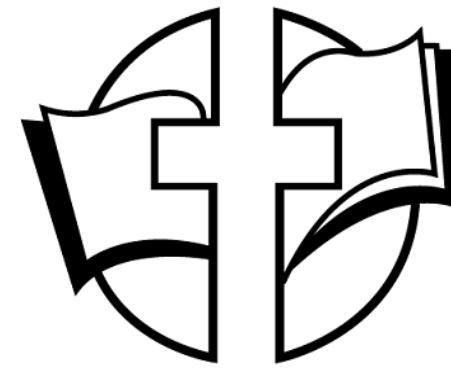
Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.

### GOOD NEWS

- Year to date receipts are 59% higher than 2020 and 29% higher than 2019.
- 96 Luther students were awarded grants of \$875 (1st child) or \$615 (2nd child) for the 2021-2022 school year.
- Grants for students in area Lutheran elementary school are a work in progress, but we expect to help about 150 students.
- Summer help has been a great blessing.
- We have resumed donations to charitable organizations. Recently gifts were given to New Life Resource Center, Jesus Cares, WA-FER, Martin Luther College, Central African Medical Mission and St. Clare Health Mission.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- To lead departments of handbags, pictures and frames, small appliances.
- To help price crafts, jewelry, cards and gifts;
- To assist with washing dishes; (especially on Mondays and Saturdays)
- Sort clothing and other intake items;
- If you can donate 2 or 20 hours per week for Christ-centered Lutheran education, call Lisa at 608-779-9763.



# The Messenger

The Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2021

## Dress yourself with...Humility

“Jump roping capital of the World!” a sign in Bloomer, Wisconsin once read. “I am king of the World!” shouted the director of the movie Titanic after it won several Academy Awards. “USA! USA! USA!” shouted millions of Americans after our Olympic hockey team beat the Russians in 1980 and then went on to win the gold.

We want to be the best in the world at something and to be able to shout: “We are number one!”

It is not all bad to be proud of our accomplishments. After all, it is God who has blessed us with our talents, and we want to express our appreciation for them.

On the other hand, we need to realize that being first, last, or somewhere in between is not really all that important. What really matters is the attitude of our hearts.

God has something very special to say on this sub-

ject. “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves” (Philippians 2:3).

As we pursue being the very best, we can be, it must never be at the expense of others. Nor should it be with the attitude that we are more deserving of what we have than others.

The perfect example of humility is Jesus. St. Paul wrote, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:5-8)!

As we gather together for in-person worship, we have even more opportunities to hear about how Jesus lived and how we want to live in response to him.

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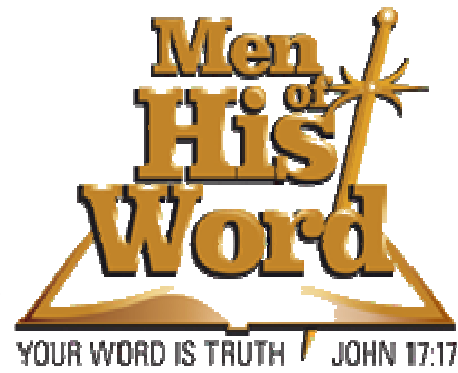
### Special points of interest:

- \* Men of the Word Conference
- \* Scavenger Hunt



“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 Men of His Word (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!



## BIRTHDAYS

Joni Timm	9/1
Noah Hanson	9/7
Derek Southwood	9/8
Jon Mlsna	9/18
Channing Manske	9/18
Rudy Jeseritz	9/19
Les Mlsna	9/20
Majesta Heller	9/23
Danielle Pryor	9/28
Jan Eggen	9/28
Mary Christie	9/29

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff + Penny Nicolai	9/7
Dale + Emily Timm	9/14
Danielle + Jesse Pryor	9/26



In the Bible Aids section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at our BRF location, you will find the book **"Agents of Grace"** by Robert J. Koester. God used many "agents of grace" to make King David into the man and leader he became. As you read this book, you can think about the "agents of grace" in your own life, and how you can be an "agent of grace" in someone else's life too.

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.

## A look at Luther The Death of the Reformer

Martin Luther did not get to be an old man. He suffered long and much from poor health. He worked hard and often didn't take time for rest – even going without meals in order to get his work done. His time was taken up with teaching at the university, preaching, writing books, answering letters, and meeting people.



When people couldn't settle their troubles, they would often call on Luther to help them. Some of the princes in Saxony quarreled among themselves, and since they could not come to an agreement, they asked Luther to come to Eisleben and try to make peace among them. Although he was feeling very ill, he made the long journey in the cold winter of 1546. He succeeded in getting the princes to settle their differences. But he was too sick to return home. He grew worse from day to day, so that he felt certain that he would die in Eisleben, the town of his birth.

During those days of illness, he strengthened himself with the Word of God and with prayer. Knowing that his end was drawing near, he prayed, "Into your hands I commend my spirit. You have redeemed me, faithful God!" All night long he prayed. When he could no longer speak, his friend Dr. Jonas asked him, "Will you die professing Christ and the doctrine you have preached?" Luther answered, "Yes." Thereupon he fell asleep in Jesus, his Savior. He died on the morning of February 18, 1546.

The sorrow was great throughout the county when it became known that Luther had died. Large crowds of people lined up along the road on which Luther's body was taken back to Wittenberg. The funeral services were held in the Castle Church. Then the body was placed into a vault under the church floor at the foot of the pulpit from which Luther had preached for many years. He lies buried in the same church to which he had nailed his 95 Theses in 1517. Here the body of Luther lays, awaiting the day of resurrection.



### TIME CHANGE


The summer is giving way to fall, and with that change comes a change to our regular worship service times. Starting Sunday, September 12, our worship service times will be as follows:

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

### GO HUNTING WITH FISH!

Invite your friends to a fun afternoon scavenger hunting on Saturday, September 11, in Black River Falls! You'll drive around BRF in teams, looking for an eclectic assortment of information (e.g. identify the 3 animal species represented at Mill's Park). Teams will be formed at 2:00 p.m. and then they will have 2 hours to find as many of the objects as possible. Treats will be served at while the scores are tallied and the whole thing will be done by 5 p.m. FiSH is a social group geared toward recreational activities for adults, single or married, younger or older.

**Sept 11, 2 PM**  
**BRF**





CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION  
LUTHERAN MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC - MALAWI  
August 2021



It seems that Covid-19 often comes up as a topic in our newsletters. I guess this one is no exception. Zambia and Malawi are both in their third wave of infections although cases have moderated in both countries in recent weeks.

The virus has struck our Mwembeshi clinic in Zambia. Zambia has been slower to begin its vaccination campaign and as a result only one or two of our clinic staff there have received even one shot of Vaccine. Consequently, when an outbreak of the virus affected the area around Mwembeshi our clinic staff were not immune.

Despite the precautions we had taken at the clinic against Covid -19, four of our clinic staff tested positive for the Virus. Two of those infected were Future Biloyi – one of our nurses and Anthony Kosongo -our Laboratory Technician. Both are younger and did not have serious symptoms. However, Mrs. Mayase Banda who is one of our older nurses, had to be taken to the hospital in Lusaka and was put on oxygen. Praise God all have recovered and are doing well. The remaining staff were also tested when the outbreak occurred and despite at one point being down four staff, clinic operations were not affected. The clinic buildings were disinfected and our covid precautions were reviewed to guard against further infections occurring during clinic hours.

In March 2021, Malawi was one of the first sub-Saharan Africa nations to begin vaccinating. However, vaccine deliveries to the country have been unreliable. All of our staff have now had one dose, while Beth and our older staff members have had two doses. We have had issues with getting other staff fully vaccinated because demand has far outstripped supply. One of our staff tested positive over the Christmas break, and did not return to work so we were not worried about the rest of our staff. We have had one or two recent scares but so far, no additional staff have tested positive.

One of those scares occurred in mid-July. Beth and I were just turning into the airport to begin a vacation with our family in the US when we received a text saying a childcare provider for one of our staff had tested positive. Fortunately, we have Violet Chikwatu and Lusungu Mwembeye in training to take over from Beth and me. We decided Violet and Lusungu should handle the problem. We reminded them of the Covid protocols they should follow and let them take care of it, which they did. The staff member was sent home to isolate. He later tested negative and returned to work.

As I write this letter Beth has returned to Malawi from the US, I am now in England visiting family. Beth was impressed with Violet's work and the initiative she took in making sure that clinic operations continued without issue. Lusungu also did well solving problems and taking care of the day-to-day administrative functions.

This was their first test of how well they can run the clinic in our absence, and both have done well. This bodes well for the future.

Please keep the people of Malawi and Zambia in your prayers, especially that Covid Vaccine supplies and distribution can improve and so spare them the misery of this infection. Please also pray for our staff in Malawi and Zambia, that they stay healthy and continue to do the work God has given us.

Gary Evans – CAMM Field Director/Clinic Administrator - Malawi

## Jubilee Debt Reduction Offering Discipline

In a way, you could call the practice of giving a spiritual discipline. Discipline has been defined as “training that develops self-control, efficiency.” Discipline is something parents want for their children. God wants us to be people who practice discipline. In fact, the practice of discipline touches almost every area of life. Think of it: If your goal is to excel at a sport, you will need the discipline to practice again and again. If your goal is to save money for traveling, a child's education, or retirement, you need discipline to set aside the money. If your goal is to exercise, you need discipline to regularly dedicate the time to working out. We benefit by bringing discipline to bear in the tasks of daily life. As Christians, we benefit by bringing discipline to bear in the area of Christian giving.

Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians to give much-needed direction to their practice of regular giving. Haphazard isn't a word that would describe his approach: **“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made” (1 Corinthians 16:2).** Did you notice the discipline involved in what Paul wrote? First...every...each one...set aside...in keeping with...saving up...

Christian giving sometimes happens spontaneously when we become aware of an immediate need. However, Christian giving usually happens as a result of thoughtful planning, prayerful consideration of God's blessings, deliberation upon different options, regularity, and the discipline of follow through.

When you think about our Jubilee Debt Reduction Offering, discipline is a good word to associate with it. Over the past 3 months you have received a letter, devotions, and updates asking you to give thoughtful consideration to this special drive. You have been asked to prayerfully consider how you might support this work together with your fellow believers here at Faith. You have been encouraged to reflect on the blessings God has given you and how you might use those blessings at this time. Discipline was required if you have already responded. Discipline will be required as you consider how you might respond.

May the Lord richly bless you and our church family with the gift of discipline when it comes to giving God our first and our best. In so doing, we will simply be reflecting the giving nature of our God – a God who gave us his first, his best, his one and only Son!

*Praise*  
and give thanks to *the*  
*Lord*

**Through August 8,  
God's people here at  
Faith have offered  
\$28,272 towards our  
goal of \$100,000 for  
our Jubilee Debt  
Reduction Offering**

# STARTING THIS MONTH

## CHOIR

Have you ever considered serving the Lord by using your musical gifts as a member of our choir? A new choir season starts September 8. We meet on Wednesday's in Black River Falls at 6:15 p.m. New members are always welcome.



## BRF Landscape Brigade

Consider helping the Landscape Brigade on Saturday, September 11, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. This month we will be putting down mulch, dead-heading, and doing some weeding. The Landscape Brigade will meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, April through October, from 8-9 a.m. Tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you would like to.



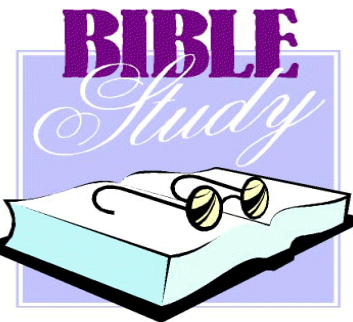
## CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will begin for all 6th-8th grade children on Wed., Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

## Getting to Know Your Bible Better

When was the last time you reviewed the basic teachings of the Bible and how those teachings applied to your life? Do you have questions about Communion, Baptism, prayer, marriage, money, parenting, or death? This class covers each of those topics, plus much more. This class is for anyone and everyone. It is an introduction to the Christian faith for those who have not been confirmed or would like to join Faith, as well as a review for those who have.

This class begins Thursday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. in Black River Falls



## "Build-up God's House!"

### Haggai Speaks to the Modern Christian

It's only two short chapters tucked into the back of the Old Testament, but the book of Haggai speaks to the modern Christian. In this little gem of a book, we are reminded to put first things first. We can do that as we find strength in God's promises and trust in his blessings. Set aside time for this Bible Class so that we might grow in faith, wisdom and knowledge.

Starting in Black River Falls on Wednesday, September 8 @ 7 p.m.  
Starting in Cataract on Sunday, September 12 @ 11 a.m.

## ADULT CHRIST LIGHT LESSONS

Christ Light is centered on Christ and grounded in God's Word and serves as an excellent way for adults to visit or revisit Old and New Testament Bible stories in group Bible study. These lessons correspond with those offered during the Sunday School Year, so parents of Sunday School kids can discuss lessons during the week at home.

Starting in Black River Falls on Sunday, September 12 @ 9:15 a.m.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

A new round of Sunday morning Bible education begins Sunday, September 12, with something for everyone – kids, teens & adults!

A new round of Sunday morning Bible education begins at our Black River Falls location on Sunday, September 12, with something for everyone! We encourage you to be like Mary and sit at the feet of Jesus for the one thing needful (see Luke 10:38-42). We will be using the lesson schedule from the Christ-Light curriculum for all the classes. This will

help with your Bible conversations, especially at home. Home devotions utilizing the lesson are found in the adult lessons. There will be an adult and teen Bible study and "Sunday School" classes will be held for pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grade children. All classes run from 9:15-10:15 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt.



## Ladies of Faith—Black River Falls

Our first Ladies of Faith (LOF) meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 13 at 6:00 p.m. at our Black River Falls campus. We will begin with Pastor Neumann leading us in Bible study using the book Enough for Now. All ladies are encouraged to come and enjoy this wonderful time of fellowship with each other gathered around God's Word. As a reminder, each time LOF gathers together for a Bible lesson, it is a stand-alone study whether you have attended in the past or are able to come to future meetings!

In addition, we will view a video on the Central African Medical Mission (CAMM) from the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) 2021 Convention held last month. This video is a great overview of both CAMM fields in Malawi and Zambia and you can "see it" with your own eyes!

Go ahead and mark your calendar for the second Monday of each month from September thru May for our regular monthly meeting!

## Ladies Aid—Cataract

The Ladies Aid will have their first meeting on Thursday, September 9 at 12:30 p.m. in Cataract. All ladies who are members of Faith are welcome to attend. They will start with a potluck lunch that day, so bring a dish to pass.