

<u>June Birthdays</u>	
Denis Janke	7/1
Jenny Goetzka	7/1
Mikah Huggett	7/3
Luke Spaude	7/3
Wendy Mlsna	7/9
Arianna Kiesow	7/10
Brad Rahmlow	7/10
Gerhart Sasman	7/21
Nancy Templeton	7/11
Ken Diener	7/15
Garrett Jessie	7/17
Brent Bacon	7/18
Noah Neumann	7/23
Karen Yahnke	7/24
Ralph Jandt	7/26
Jeff Nicolai	7/28



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Pastor: Joel Neumann

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

***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, please contact Laura Mueller at the following email address: muellerlaura@hotmail.com. Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.

MEETINGS AND GROUP GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

Elders – Thursday, July 2 @ 6 pm in
Black River Falls

Child Protection Ad Hoc – Saturday, Ju-
ly 11 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls

Youth Group – Sunday, July 12 @ 2 p.m.
in Black River Falls

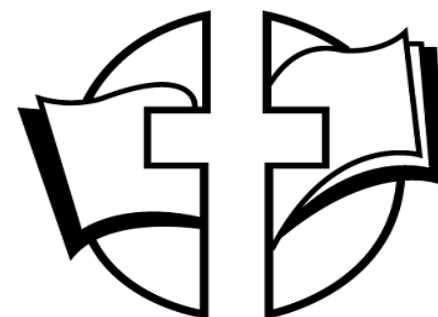
Council – Monday, July 13 @ 6 p.m. in
Black River Falls

Congregational Voters' Meeting – Sun-
day, August 2 at 11:15 am in Cataract.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is a part of
the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or
WELS. The WELS is a church body with congre-
gations 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.



The Messenger

JULY 2020

A GIFT TO ENJOY

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.
This month's favorite Bible verse is: **Romans 6:23**

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

My first paycheck. \$100! A ONE with two zeroes behind it! It didn't matter that I spent a week pulling weeds with thistles in a 45-acre field. It didn't matter that I sweltered under a hot July sun. It didn't matter that I earned minimum wage. I had my name on it. I earned it.

There is another paycheck that I'm not so excited about. It comes in the form of guilt pricking my conscience far deeper than a thistle could ever penetrate my skin. Sometimes I see it when my temper flares hotter than the summer sun. I feel it when I know I should be more considerate, more caring, more loving toward others around me. So I work harder to do what's right and try harder to do better than before, but still, it never

seems to be enough. And it isn't enough, because the Bible tells me the wages of my sin is



death—and it's your paycheck, too.

But, thank the Lord, the Bible also tells us that God is not going to give us what we have earned with our sins. Instead,

he gives us something we have not earned—eternal life. It's a gift that has been bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus and earned by his death on the cross.

That takes all the pressure off, doesn't it? Instead of the failures of our past, we can look to Jesus' perfect life of love. Instead of the pressures of tomorrow, we can look to the promise of eternal life that is already won for us by Jesus' dying and rising from the dead. As a result, life is not a burden, but a gift to enjoy always.

COVID-19 AND MENTAL HEALTH

CHRISTIAN COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE

2 different ways!

Christian counseling is not always easily accessible, but now members at the congregation you serve can connect with one of our Christian counselors worldwide through one of these two convenient ways:

In-Person Counseling . Video Counseling

#1—IN-PERSON COUNSELING

- Counseling services provided in our community clinics throughout the country
- For clinic locations, call 800.438.1772 or visit ChristianFamilySolutions.org
- Members can use insurance or private pay discount

#2—VIDEO COUNSELING (TELEHEALTH)

- Counseling via secure video for those outside our clinic areas
- Also ideal for those with mobility or transportation issues
- Can be provided in states where we have licensed counselors
- For more information, call 800.438.1772 or visit ChristianFamilySolutions.org
- Members can use insurance or private pay discount

ABOUT THE MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MAP)

- A customized way for congregations to offer short-term counseling services for their members (in person at our clinics or via secure video from anywhere in the country or worldwide)
- Especially beneficial for congregations who wish to assist members who have financial obstacles or no insurance benefits
- Services are covered by the congregation with no direct cost to the member being served

GETTING STARTED IN MAP

- Contact the MAP Support Center at 800.438.1772 or e-mail map@wlcfs.org.
- For more information about the Member Assistance Program, visit ChristianFamilySolutions.org.

262.345.5560 • 800.438.1772

www.ChristianFamilySolutions.org

W175 N11120 Stonewood Drive

Germantown, WI 53022



WISCONSIN LUTHERAN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICE, INC.

Did you know that our Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) has its own Counseling Services and that the counselors are WELS members? This service is called **Christian Family Solutions**. Did you know that their counseling services are available for all members of our congregation? Did you know their services are available by means of the internet?

One of the things that these difficult and trying times have done is have an effect on our mental health. For this reason, Christian Family Solutions stands ready to help anyone who might be in need of counseling. Here is some information concerning this resource.

- It is possible for WELS members to contact them directly for services
- A lot of insurance companies that had previous not covered mental health services are now covering it. Christian Family Solutions will help you determine if your insurance does.
- They have reduced the hourly rates to make it more affordable for anyone who might benefit from it
- To make use of this service, go to www.christianfamilysolutions.org and click on the telehealth pop-up tab to get started

Please keep in mind that it is not weakness to reach out for help if you are struggling with your mental health. Therefore, if Pastor can be any assistance to you in any way please call or email. If this service from Christian Family Solutions can be of benefit to you, please check them out.

SERVICES AVAILABLE THROUGH MAP

- Individual, couple, & family counseling
- Premarital counseling
- Career counseling
- General substance abuse counseling
- Consultation

- Educational presentations
- Student Needs Assessment
- Screening program for schools
- Elder Care Navigation
- Online support groups
- Online support group facilitation
- Member assessment
- Crisis response



YOU ARE INVITED TO BIBLE SOCCER CAMP

The Bible Soccer Camp will be held August 3 – August 5 at Faith Lutheran Church in Black River Falls (come each day or some of the days).

The Bible Soccer Camp is for children ages 4-13.

The Bible Soccer Camp will be held from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. each day.

There is no cost for this Bible Soccer Camp. Each child will receive a t-shirt.

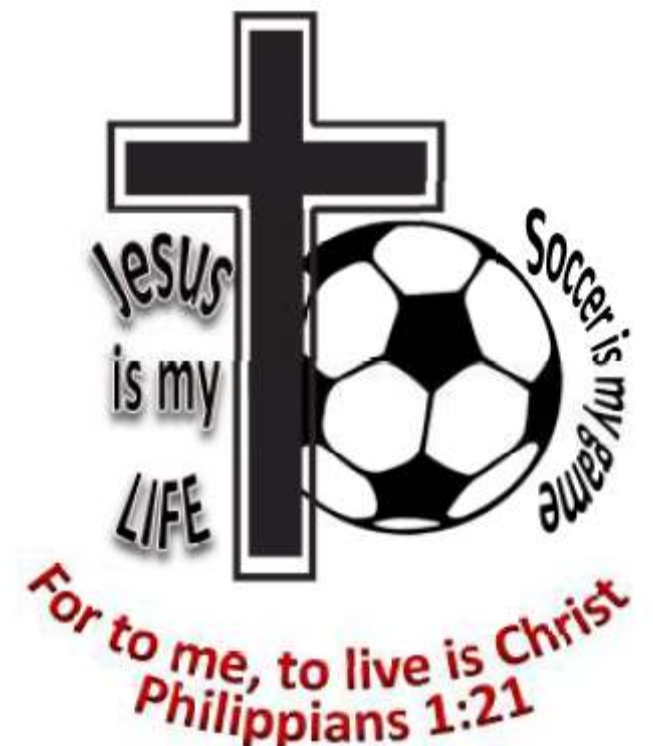
The Bible Soccer Camp activities will include physical training and Bible studies. Each child should have appropriate footwear. There will also be a snack time, craft time, and music time.

Due to COVID-19, each child is asked to bring their own water bottle. We will practice social distancing as best we can. We ask that each family consider whether they feel comfortable sending their child(ren) or not. We also ask that if your children are sick, please do not send them.

The Bible Soccer Camp registration can be done online at www.faithwels.com or by filling out a registration sheet found in the gathering area. Questions? Call 284-0772.



THIS YEAR'S THEME IS...





NEW PHONE NUMBER

Pastor Neumann updated his phone, and in the process got a local phone number. Please replace the old number you have with his new number—715-721-2011.

July Anniversaries

Pastor Joel + Rachel Neumann	7/6
Dale + Linda Jessie	7/12
Ray + Judy Sommers	7/21
Jim + Mary Christie	7/21

LIBRARY CORNER

As elections approach, this would be a good time to check out the book, *Civil Government - God's Other Kingdom* by Daniel Deutschlander. It is one of the People's Bible Teachings books in the Bible Aids section of our church library located in the fellowship hall at our BRF location. This book uses the Bible as a guide to first look at the government during Biblical times and then trace the history of church-state relations since then. It ends by looking at the current problems in church-state relations. Read this book to get a better understanding of citizenship in your community and in God's family.

To checkout, write the date, your name, and the name of the book/DVD/CD in the notebook on the shelf.



A Few Notes About Worship In July

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICES ARE ENDING

- ⇒ We will **NOT** continue 3 services per weekend throughout the month of July. The only services will be at 8 a.m. in Cataract on Sunday and 9:45 a.m. in Black River Falls on Sunday.
 - ◇ This will be reviewed at our July council meeting to see if there is need for a 3rd service to once again be held
- ⇒ Facebook Live services **WILL** continue. They will be on Sunday during the 9:45 a.m. service. They will then be uploaded to Faith's YouTube channel later Sunday morning.

If there are other questions/concerns, please call the church office.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

We will resume our study of the book, "*Will the Real Jesus please stand up? 12 False Christs*" on Thursday, August 6 at 6:30 pm in Black River Falls. We began this study last year in August and had such great discussion that we were not able to finish it. We will seek to finish it this year.

PLEASE NOTE: if you were not able to attend last year, but are able to this year and would like a book, please sign-up on the white table in the gathering area. You will not feel lost as we jump back into this book. Each chapter is unique unto itself.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**Sunday, August 2
at 11:15 am. The
meeting will be
held in Cataract.**

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group will meet in Black River Falls on Sunday, July 12 from 2-3:30 p.m. Our youth group includes all those in 7th – 12th grade. Those who will be entering the 7th grade in the fall are invited to come.



THE VESSEL THROUGH CORONA VIRUS (COVID 19)

By Alisad Banda

According to the “Merriam Webster dictionary” a vessel can be a container such as a cask, bottle, kettle, cup, or bowl. The vessel in most cases is used for holding or carrying something. Admittedly, vessels are in many forms, shapes and types which are made for different functions. However, the common characteristic is that vessels are designed to hold substances such as fluids.

God in His wisdom has called people to be the vessels, indeed people cannot do anything good but by the will of God. As God’s vessels, He expects His children to demonstrate Christ-centered love through the acts of faith, compassion, and mercy.

At the Lutheran (Mwembezhi) mission rural health centre, through our Brothers and Sisters in the United States of America, the staff in all departments of the clinic realize that being a vessel of God also demands that individuals live according to that calling. As a vessel of God, He uses individuals according to the abilities that He has entrusted in them to do His will.

God is still asking us to bring people to His kingdom, through that which He has instilled in His children, to be dedicated to his work and demonstrate Christ’s love through acts of faith. For man was created for such work, just as it is recorded in 2 Timothy 2 :21-22 “ *If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart*” (NIV)

The corona virus world pandemic has spoken to the world, to every race, regardless of an individual’s status in society. The world and national economies have been shaken through lockdowns. It is a reality that this pandemic could bring financial stress to families, lead to other health problems, cause family break ups, children stopping school, and companies closing up business indefinitely. The consequences of covid-19 are too numerous to mention but, as we live through this pandemic, we must remember that God remains the “Almighty God”, our Rock of Salvation.

The Mwembezhi clinic has been standing strong in its pursuit to offer Christ’s love and health services to all the people in this part of Zambia. Thanks mainly to our stakeholders who have contributed financial aid and material support in various forms, and with the individual expertise of our staff, we have all shown ways of extending God’s grace to our patients through being His vessels. Let us all pray for each other especially children who have been left without parents due to covid-19 and many other diseases, pray for the medical and administrative staff and volunteers at Mwembezhi who have done their best to see that the clinic remains a shining star, leading to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. For it has been your support in various forms that has aided all the operations at the clinic. To God be the glory for all the teamwork that has been done by all people both in Zambia and USA.



Lutheran Mwembezhi Mission nurse (Mrs Mayase Banda)



Clinic volunteer at Lutheran (Ms Rachel Sando)

CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a devotion on 1 Corinthians 12 and a discussion on engaging members in ministry.
- Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Brad Markardt, Brad Rahmlow, Dave Spaude, Kirk Goetzka, Rick Treptow

ELDER’S REPORT

- Isabel Neumann and Charlie Severson were confirmed and received into membership on June 7, 2020.
- It was reported that due to the uncertainties surrounding worship due to COVID-19, the Welcome Home program will be put on hold for now.
- It was reported that the elders will be making another round of phone calls to those who haven’t been able to worship yet in order to see if there is some way we can serve them
- Dave Spaude reported that the elders are working on item #1 from this year’s Vision Timeline meetings – encouraging Bible study participation for the strengthening of our congregation. They are in the process of putting together an information gathering survey.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Brad presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$36,154.08 through the end of May. MSC to accept financial report for May, 2020.

SPECIAL REPORTS

- Outreach Committee
 - ⇒ Council reviewed the outreach report supplied by Brad Markhardt.
 - ⇒ Brad also reviewed the outreach committee’s plan for selecting and asking family groups to mentor new members. MSC to present the plan to the congregation for final approval at the next congregational meeting.
 - ⇒ The concert in the park this year will be cancelled due to the current pandemic.
 - ⇒ The bible soccer camp will be held as usual with some minor modifications to be as safe as possible. The dates will be 3,4, and 5 of August.
- Property Committee
 - ⇒ The parking lot in the BRF location has been sealed and the gravel around the outside has been added to and leveled.

OLD BUSINESS

- Council discussed the pros/cons of moving the children’s Christmas Eve service to an earlier date (possibly the Sunday before) instead of Christmas Eve. At this time the service times will be kept as normal
- The church picnic will be canceled for this year.

NEW BUSINESS

- Saturday night services will be held through the end of June, and then will stop when July starts
- Church services will continue to be uploaded to Facebook Live and YouTube until further notice
- At some point in the future we will need to change out a part of the sound system in BRF to get rid of all static issues caused by cellphones. Council approved spending up to \$2000 to upgrade the sound system. MSC
- Council reviewed the preview of the next Christian Worship hymnal. We will continue to review in the upcoming meetings.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord’s Prayer

The next Council Meeting will be held in BRF, July 13th at 6pm.

The next quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held August 2nd at 11:15 in CAT.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie