

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.

Learn to Grow with FiSH!

FiSH is a social group sponsored by Faith Ev. Lutheran Church geared toward recreation activities for adults, single or married, younger or older.

The next FiSH activity will be **Saturday, April 21** and we will tour the Floating Gardens near Mindoro - a grain farm family that became aquaponics greenhouse growers. After the tour, we'll head over to Top Dawgs for lunch (maybe try one of their 108 different burgers).

Here are the nitty gritty's:

When: Leave the BRF church building at 9:30 a.m. and return around 2 p.m. (You can meet the group at Floating Gardens (N8985 County Road C, Mindoro) at 10:30 if you wish.)

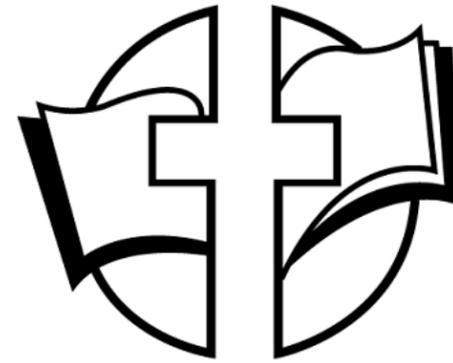
What Else: Bring \$5 for the tour and money for lunch



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Joel Neumann



The Messenger

April 2018

Love Is Not...(Part I)

[Love] does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude... (1 Corinthians 13:4,5)

The original language of the Bible has three different words for love. One of those words speaks about the love of passion. While there is certainly a place for this within the life of a Christian, this isn't the love that is being described in 1 Corinthians 13. Good thing too - because the love of passion can at times be very self-centered.

Another word the Bible uses for love is one that deals with the feelings of warmth and friendship. While there is certainly a place for this within the life of a Christian, this too is not the love being described in 1 Corinthians 13. Good thing too - because our feelings can change and shift from hour to hour and day to day.

Naturally, if the first two words aren't what 1 Corinthians is all about, then this last word must be. And this word speaks about a love which is an attitude and the resulting action that is taken because of that attitude. It is a love that gives even when it doesn't "feel" like it. It is a love that is committed to loving even when the other is being "unlovable." It is a love not based on how the other treats you, but on your commitment (born from God's love for us in Jesus) to be loving to them. That's the love being described in our words.

This kind of Christian love is like a

glittering diamond. When viewed from different angles, it takes on a new beauty; and the words above give us different views of the same Christian love. Last month Paul said, "Love is patient, love is kind." This month, Paul unfolds new patterns of love by telling us what love is not.

Love is not envious! Christian love does not covet or look with jealousy at what others possess. Instead, it is happy with what the Lord has given. It looks for the good others have, and is happy to see it. Other people may enjoy more earthly success, more honor, and more blessings than we do. But that's no reason to be jealous of them.

Just stop and consider - God's love for us in Jesus and his care for us day by day provides us with all that we need now and for eternity! That gives us every reason to be content - which is the opposite of envy - with what he is pleased to give us.

Love is not proud! Love has no room for boasting or bragging. It doesn't look for reasons to think oneself great and make sure others realize it. After all, what does anyone have to boast about. From the moment we entered this world we were lost and condemned creatures. We have no power in

ourselves to change that sad and pitiful lot. And even now, after having been called out of the darkness of unbelief to the light of saving faith by the working of God the Holy Spirit, we still can't keep our act together and always do as God desires. Paul rightfully confessed, "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Corinthians 15:10). Christian love reflects the humility of that confession.

Love is not rude! The Christian does not demand one's rights. He is not thoughtless, tactless, or forgetful about the feelings of others. Rather, Christian love is forgetful of one's own desires and intentionally thoughtful and considerate towards others.

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 his love has never been envious, proud or rude. 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. Having received that love in the forgiveness of our sins, we are empowered to show Christ-like love to all around us.

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Birthdays

Lori Spaude	4/2
Xylr Heller	4/4
Sandra Bue	4/10
Evan Markhardt	4/18
Karen Jessie	4/18
Jacob Bue	4/18
Gordy Ritter	4/23
Chris Manske	4/25
Penny Nicolai	4/27
Judy Sommers	4/29

Anniversaries

Gary & Pam Johnson	4/3
Jacob & Sandy Bue	4/26

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

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 or Laura Mueller 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.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Summary

March 5, 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 CHURCH.
- Present: Pastor Neumann, Brad Markhardt, Jerry Kirchman, Brad Rahmlow, Dale Jessie, Grady Severson, Cody Heller.

ELDER'S REPORT

- Transfer out - Zach Markhardt to Divine Savior, Shawano, WI-Moved Seconded Confirmed (MSC)
- Transfer out-Kayla Manahan to Faith, Tallahassee, FL-MS

Garrett Jessie will be looking for an additional member for the Elders Committee.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor reviewed a statistical report for the month of January and February.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$7,761.69 through the end of February. MSC to accept financial report for February, 2017.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Brad Markhardt, chairman of the Outreach Committee, presented a request that a couple of Council Members become part of the Outreach Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Pastor continues to be charged with the researching and purchase of a computer with outside help.

NEW BUSINESS

- Summer Worship times - Motion to continue with the schedule the same as last summer—which includes flipping the service times between our two locations. 8:00am in Cataract and 9:45am in BRF. Starting Memorial Day, May 27th and ending Labor Day, September 2nd . MSC
- Summer picnic and joint service to be held in BRF this year on June 24th, 2018.
- Dale will identify and discuss the position of Property Committee Chairman with a couple of members.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer. The next Council Meeting will be held in Cataract on April 16, 2018 at 6:00pm. The next Congregational meeting will be held in BRF on April 22, 2018 at 1:00pm.

Recorded By Brad Rahmlow

LOOKING AHEAD IN APRIL

Have you ever heard of the “butterfly effect”? It’s a science fiction term used to describe a phenomenon that is believed will occur when someone goes back in time and changes something in the past. That change will cause a ripple effect into the future causing a whole new reality.

Let’s make no mistake about it - Easter is not science fiction. The events of Easter are as real as they get. Jesus really rose from the dead, just as he said. He gave overwhelming proof that he was indeed alive. And, like some “butterfly effect,” when Jesus stepped out of the grave alive some two thousand years ago, he changed history forever. More importantly, he changed our lives forever.

This Easter season we will take a look at the effects Jesus’ resurrection has on our lives.

April 8 – Second Sunday of Easter

Focus – The Easter Effect: We Live With Conviction

Readings: Acts 26:19-29; 1 Corinthians 15:12-22; John 20:19-31

April 15 – Third Sunday of Easter

Focus – The Easter Effect: Willing Submission to the Lord’s Will

Readings: Acts 12:1-19; 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6; Luke 24:36-49

April 22 – Fourth Sunday of Easter

Focus – The Easter Effect: We are Not Alone

Readings: Acts 20:28-32; 1 Peter 5:1-4; John 10:11-18

April 29 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

Focus – The Easter Effect: We are Willing Servants

Readings: Acts 16:11-15; 1 John 3:18-24; John 15:1-8

Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society (LWMS) Spring Rally

The Spring Rally of the LWMS Scenic Coulee Circuit will meet **Thursday, April 19.** The meeting will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in South Ridge. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 1 p.m.

Our guest speaker that day will be Pastor James Korthals as he presents Worker Training Around the World. Since 1863 the professors at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS) have been preparing pastors for service in American congregations and as missionaries on foreign fields. You see the results of this

work every week because your pastor is a product of that training.

What is less well known is our seminary's involvement in the training of pastors in foreign countries. Professors from WLS regularly go overseas to help prepare native pastors for service in their own countries. Professor Korthals has had the opportunity to assist in the training of pastors in East Asia and in Africa. At our LWMS gathering he will give you insights into this very important work as we go into all the world with the gospel message.

Youth Rally Lock-in

The Youth Group will be having a lock-in at our Black River Falls location on **Friday—April 6**, starting at 5 p.m. The Youth Group is open to all kids in 7-12th grade. A supper meal will be provided for them at 5 p.m. and parents are asked to be to church no later than 8 a.m. Saturday morning to pick their youth up.

If attending, the youth are encouraged to bring:

A six or twelve pack of soda to share with those at the lock-in

A snack to share with those at the lock-in

Board games they might like to play

A pillow and sleeping bag in case they get tired and want to sleep

Anything else that they might need in case they would like to sleep

Ladies of Faith (LOF)

Have you ever made and given or received a May Day Basket? Perhaps you don't even know what a May Day Basket is?

Have you ever made and given or received a cross? No doubt you know exactly why you would give someone a cross and the meaning behind it.

What joy fills your heart when you are able to bring a smile and some joy to another's heart, especially to those who may not often have the opportunity to visit with Christians?

Intrigued? How about if you could combine May Day Basket making, cross making and giving, and sharing your Christian love with those in need (which of course is all of us!)? And hear



a devotion on God's Word.

If you are interested, LOF invites you to our TWO meeting nights in April:

Monday, April 9 at 6:00 p.m. in BRF where after Pastor Neumann shares a devotion we will continue and finish making our stand up plastic canvas crosses to be delivered at our second meeting . . .

Tuesday, April 24 at 6:00 p.m. at Pine View Care Center (Nursing Home) in the dining room where Pastor Neumann will again share a devotion with the nursing home residents and our LOF. We'll then share our crosses with the residents and help them make May Day Baskets.

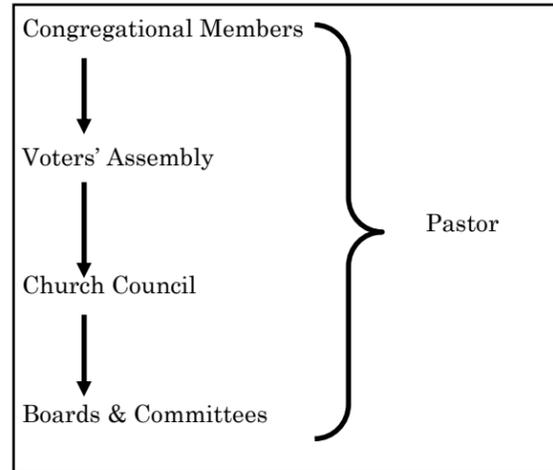
If you have any questions, please contact Kari Kellen or Annette Markhardt.



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.

4. Did you know that Faith Lutheran Church is your church? You might be saying to yourself about right now, “Well duh, Pastor, of course it is my church.” But I’m not so sure we always realize that. You see, Faith is not the church of which Pastor Neumann is the head (as some sort of CEO); nor is it the church that any individual member runs; it isn’t even the church the church council runs. It is your church.



Perhaps the diagram to the left can help. In the diagram you can see that the church belongs to its members. Now, the work of the individual congregation and its members is carried out by the Voters’ Assembly. But that’s still you!

How’s that, you say? Well, consider this. Voting members are those male communicant members who have declared their agreement with the Church Constitution by their signatures. But those voting members are not to carry their own voice and opinion alone. Husbands are to be the voice of their wives and daughters. The pastor and elders are to be the voice of the widowed, single women, or women whose husbands are not members. In this way the voice of all members are heard.

It is for this reason that it is so important for voting members of the congregation to do all they can to attend voters’ meetings. It is your church, and you are not only carrying your voice alone, but the voice of others!

Finally, perhaps it is fitting to mention one more thing about your church. It is this – a congregation is only as strong as its individual members are spiritually strong. That spiritual strength comes from God’s Word and Sacraments. For this reason the pastor stands alongside all aspects of the church to shepherd and guide its members with the word of God. When a high percentage of our church’s membership is in Worship and Bible study each week, it will help to make your congregation strong.

Now you know.

JESUS CARES WORSHIP AT THE CROSS

Our congregation held its first Worship at the Cross service on Monday, March 26. This service is 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 Monday, April 23. It will be held at 6 p.m. at our Black River Falls location. 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.

Central Africa Medical Mission (CAMM)

Malawi and Zambia

March 2018

“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch you.” Psalm 32”8

Greetings,

This is not your typical monthly letter from CAMM. While our staff is in transition in Malawi, I offered to write the March letter to update all of you on activities affecting our clinics.

Beth Evans has safely arrived in Lilongwe and is transitioning to her new role as Nurse in Charge of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic. While Beth has experience from her tour of duty in Malawi during the 1980’s, much has changed. Staff is larger and required statistics and data are maintained electronically. In a recent email, Beth wrote: “I have lots to learn. I started Chichewa (the language) lessons today and my instructor is excellent. I wish I could show you what it’s like when we first arrive with the ambulance and staff at Msambo. It’s our busiest outpatient clinic. A sea of people. So much malaria! I think of how Jesus saw the crowds and had pity on them. So thankful we can help relieve some of the physical suffering.” And we are so grateful that God has guided Beth to return to Malawi to oversee the work of the clinic. We also give thanks that Beth received her Temporary Employment Permit (TEP) after 8 months of processing. Her husband Gary will be leaving the states the end of March to join her in Malawi to be the next Clinic Administrator. We anxiously await his TEP as well.

In Zambia, long hours due to the 24/7 mandate and a significant cholera outbreak are adding stress to our clinic staff. According to Jackson Kalekwa, our Chief Clinical Officer, staff will work their normal day, may have to return for an infant delivery or other emergency in the evening, and then return to work the next day. With only 7-8 current staff, there are not enough workers to handle the 7 days a week patient load. Temporary help has been approved and plans are being made to add medical staff to alleviate some of the burden. The cholera outbreak is now decreasing; our staff implemented an area wide educational

program to slow the spread of the disease. Our clinic did not experience any deaths but was on high alert.

The stateside committee also has experienced significant changes. Often a new committee member joins when a specific position is open – not necessarily a position that is a good fit for skills and strengths. Current members have changed roles to form a more effective committee. These changes initiated when I requested a new Chairwoman to help CAMM move forward. I served in this role for 7 years and am eager to develop a stronger awareness of CAMM with you as supporters and with many not familiar with the work of our clinics as Outreach Coordinator. I am excited to share these transitions with you:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairwoman: | Shelly Sievert (WI) |
| Treasurer: | Bea Punke (WI) |
| Secretary: | Kris Olson (IA) |
| Public Relations: | Angela Sievert (IA) |
| Nurse Coordinator: | Cindy Fietzer (WI) |
| Nurse Advisor: | Kari Belter (WI) |
| Web: | Mike Valus (MI) |
| Outreach Coordinator: | Linda Liesener (WI) |
| Contact Woman Coordinator: | Cheryl Valus (MI) |
| Medical Advisor: | Dr Mike Brooks (WI) |
| Pastoral Advisor: | Pastor Kevin Schultz (ID) |

The Lord continues to instruct, guide and lead us with this Mission of Love. Continue to pray for our current staff In both countries as well as the stateside committee who supports them.

*In Christ,
Linda Liesener*