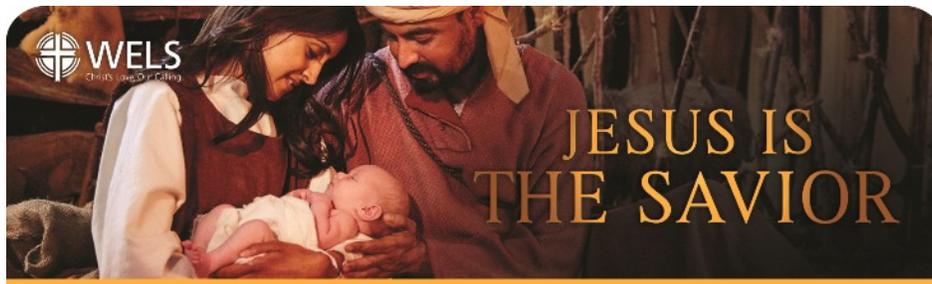


# The Messenger

*Rooted in Christ.  Reaching Out With The Word.*

*Faith Ev. Lutheran Church  
Pastor Joel Neumann - (715) 284-0772*

*August 2016*



## **Jesus is My Savior from Death**

**The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 6:23**

There is a reason that people don't like to talk about death. Death is scary. Despite all of our medical advances, it is still inevitable. Death doesn't discriminate in any way. It gets the rich and the poor, the fit and the unfit, the mean and the nice. Death always comes.

Why does death come for us all? It is because of one fatal condition that we share. We are sinful. Our sins make us death's target. God is holy, and therefore hates sin. Our sins are not something that he can just ignore. Sin can't fit in with who God is or with his plan for all things. Instead, sin brings death. Death is the consequence of sin.

Death is a great enemy against us. In our eyes that enemy looks bigger and tougher than we could ever defeat. But there is hope.

The Bible teaches, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." God loves us. Even though we don't deserve it because we are sinners, God loves us. All of our solutions for death come up short. But God did not abandon us to death's destruction.

In his great love for us, God provides a solution that really works. His solution is Jesus.

Jesus, the Son of God, came to save us from death. He defeated that powerful enemy. Jesus defeated death by taking all of our sins on himself. He suffered the punishment we deserved for our sins; he died on the cross of Calvary to pay the "wages of sin." By sacrificing his holy life for us, Jesus defeated death. He proved it by his resurrection from the dead.

Now "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus." Trusting in Jesus as our Savior, the fear of death is taken away. For Jesus promises that we will live, even though we die (John 11:25). When we close our eyes in death, he will open them to eternal life. We will wake up from death to life with God in heaven where there will be none of the hurts, disappointments, and fears that we experience now.

Jesus is your Savior from death. He has freed you from the fear of death's destruction, and freely gives you the hope and joy of eternal life!

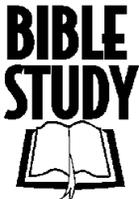


### Faith Outreach Meeting

Motivated by the gospel, the purpose of our Outreach Committee is to help our church members live the mission of our congregation – to be “Rooted in Christ & Reaching Out with the Word.”

Agenda items this month includes evaluating the Faith Family Fun Nights. Our meeting will take place Thursday, August 11, at 9 am in the BRF church building.

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend.



Planning is an essential part of everyone’s life. It helps us be organized. It helps us do things in a fitting and orderly way. It helps us put first things first...and God teaches us to seek first his kingdom and righteousness (everything that has to do with faith) first.

It is for this reason that a Bible Class Schedule for 2016-2017 will be made available to everyone in August, so they can plan in advance what Bible Classes they might be able to attend.

## Celebrating Their ANNIVERSARY

August 1<sup>st</sup>

Ron & Karen Baerbock

August 4<sup>th</sup>

Cody & Majesta Heller

August 6<sup>th</sup>

Scott & Nancy Templeton

August 7<sup>th</sup>

Dave & Lori Spaude

August 10<sup>th</sup>

Bryan & Danelle Leisso

August 12<sup>th</sup>

Dave & Kari Kellen

August 26<sup>th</sup>

Ralph & Karen Jandt

August 2<sup>th</sup>

Jimmie & Hillerie Hertz

## FAITH FAMILY FUN NIGHTS

Starting August 8<sup>th</sup>, we will kick off our *Faith Family Fun Nights*. Join us August 8-10 for a light supper starting at 5:30 p.m. The Bible study (for all ages) will start at 6:15 p.m. There will be crafts and games and fun.



If you no longer have kids at home, that’s okay—come anyway! All activities will wrap up by 8:00 p.m.

This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith and strengthen the bonds of fellowship!



The youth group had a great time at their meeting in July. We began a study of the gospel of John, made some plans for this upcoming year, and played two rousing games of *Catch Phrase*.

Keep an eye on bulletins, newsletters, and our website to keep up to speed with all that is going on.

***Our next meeting will be . . .  
Tuesday, August 16th  
at 6:30 p.m.***

**Elder’s Meeting**  
Our next Elder’s meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will take place at the BRF worship location.

## PREPARING YOUR CHILD FOR CONFIRMATION

I know it isn't easy to hear, but with August rolling around it means that school isn't that far away. If school isn't that far away, it means confirmation is just around the corner. So now is a good time to ask perhaps a strange question: does confirmation still have value today?

The answer to that has to be a resounding yes. After all, when can time spent in God's Word not be valuable? But did you know that seven out of ten young people fall away from their church after confirmation. This is the average for Wisconsin Synod churches today. What can you do to help prevent that from happening to your son or daughter? Take time to read through these suggestions. More suggestions will come next month.

- ***Help your child grasp all the blessings of baptism.*** Baptism is their personal assurance that their sins have been washed away by the blood of Christ. And it is the enabling power for a life of service to Christ, His Church, and to those not yet in His Church. What baptism has given us the right to do, confirmation equips us to do. The years of preparation for confirmation increase our children's knowledge of God's Word and strengthen their faith in the promises of God. Also, the Scripture passages and Christian doctrine which children learn in Catechism class equip them to minister to the troubled souls they will encounter.
- ***Show your children how much you value instruction from God's Word.*** There's a little story about a farm boy from Nebraska who often saw his dad pray at normal times like meals and devotions. Not until he stumbled upon his father praying in the barn, however, did this young man grasp the tender and close relationship that his father had with Jesus. This picture communicated much more than any number of father-son chats ever could. He saw what his dad had tried so often to tell him—and he was convinced.
- ***Don't expect a Christian school or the church to make a committed disciple out of your child.*** Church and school offer vital support roles, but the real responsibility rests on the shoulders of parents. Our children carry our imprint throughout life. Accept the responsibility and seek the Lord's guidance!
- ***Be careful not to offend your children.*** When your children were younger, they swallowed every word you said without question. By the time they reach nine or ten, however, they begin to be very sensitive to any double standard. "Do what I say, not what I do" just doesn't wash. Youngsters also carry around a strict code of justice. Why should they be forced to value something you don't?
- ***Be watchful for the effect of peer criticism.*** Be ready to counteract the influence of those who belittle confirmation classes. Affirm the worth of what your children are doing. They are preparing for service in the kingdom of our God!

### CONFIRMATION

Back in March of this year, the church council approved Pastor Neumann's request to begin confirmation instruction in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, making it three years of instruction instead of two. With school just around the corner, that means confirmation will be starting soon too. Parents, please keep an eye on the bulletin and in your e-mails for information concerning the upcoming year. Pastor plans on contacting each of you sometime during August.





## Have you considered teaching Sunday School?

If you would like to serve by teaching Sunday School this year, please let Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt know by Sunday, August 14. This is a wonderful opportunity to nourish our children's faith with the precious truths of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We will continue using our synod's Christ-Light® materials, which provide teachers with easy to follow, step-by-step lessons.



**Don't Take  
a Vacation  
from Church**

## Leaving Town On Vacation?

If travel or vacation plans take you away from the Black River Falls or Cataract area, remember to go to [wels.net](http://wels.net) and click on the church locator to find a sister WELS church at which to worship.



## CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING

The next regularly scheduled congregational voters' meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 7 at 1:00 p.m.

This meeting will be held in Cataract.

Raymond Sommers	8/01
Heather Holcomb	8/04
Nina Severson	8/16
Alex Huggett	8/26
Kari Kellen	8/29

## Sunday Sermons

If you would benefit from following along with the sermon while it is being preached, copies of the sermon can be found in the gathering area on the white table (BRF) and countertop (CAT). Sermons can also be found online at [www.faihwels.com](http://www.faihwels.com)



**FAITH**  
EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Black River Falls & Cataract, WI*

[www.faihwels.com](http://www.faihwels.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 or information:*

*Contact Alisa Volk either in person or at the following e-mail address: [aavpc@hotmail.com](mailto:aavpc@hotmail.com).*

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

**Saturday, August 20th** is the deadline for the September, 2016 newsletter.