

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 INVITES YOU TO THE 1ST ANNUAL  
**“CABIN FEVER”**  
**SOUP & CHILI CHALLENGE**



**Saturday Feb 24th 2018**  
**1 to 4 PM**  
 (set up at 12/ Tasting Starts at 2)

We will be hosting an informal Soup and Chili Challenge. All are invited to join us for this opportunity for some FUN, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD and FAITH. If you would like to enter the contest, please bring a crockpot of your favorite soup or chili to the church by 12:45PM so the setup can begin. ANY type of soup or chili is acceptable! Anyone who is willing to taste the entries will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite. The winning cook will receive a \$25 gift card as well as other surPRIZES!

Don't care to taste, NO PROBLEM! You are welcome to come and enjoy snacks, salads and other munchies without having to participate in the contest. All food will be provided. If you would like, also bring your favorite game or cards to add to the fun of the day!

**For more info contact Jerry Kirchman @ 715-299-0453**

**Limited to the first 16 Entries!!! Entry Deadline is Feb 16th**

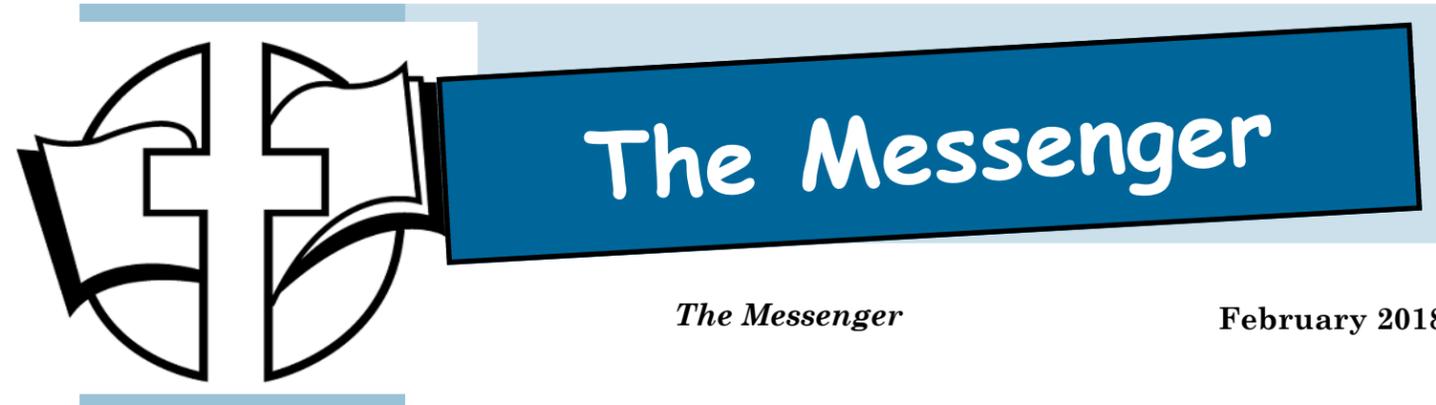


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We're on the Web!  
[www.faithwels.com](http://www.faithwels.com)



*The Messenger*

February 2018

***But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)***

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In the care and concern of a mother for her child, there is love. In the tear of a sorrowing husband at the open grave of his wife, there is love. In the helping hand that reaches out to him who is in need, there is love. Love is the universal language of hearts drawn to each other.

But sin has a habit of tarnishing the luster of love. In fact, sin has cheapened the meaning of the word “love” to the extent that it cannot be recognized as love at all. That is why the Lord had Paul write down for all ages a commentary on love in 1 Corinthians 13. His words renew and refresh our understanding of the excellence of this Christian virtue.

Christian love is much more than physical attraction. It is more than an empty emotion, even more than avid affection. True love exists and grows in a heart where Christ dwells by faith. “God is love” (1 John 4:8). And the fullness of the Father’s love is seen in the giving of his Son. “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son” (John 3:16). His supreme act of love took place on Calvary when Jesus died to make full and complete payment for our sins.

By that love Christ made us God’s own. Now his love assures us, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine” (Isaiah 43:1). This love of Christ draws us to follow his path of suffering and to stand beneath the cross during the approaching Lenten Season.

We, who are God’s children, who know his love in Christ Jesus, cannot but return love for love. “We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). His love moves us also to be loving toward others. “If we love each other, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us” (1 John 4:12). His love is the sun that shines through the dark clouds of life; his love directs our lives.

That love – as it is reflected in the life of the Christian – will be the topic of our newsletter devotion for the next couple of months. We shall see what it is and what it is not; what it does and what it does not do; and recognize that it must always be rooted in the original love of Christ. How fitting for us to look at this love, then, during the season of the church year that directs our attention even more strongly to the cross and empty tomb of our Savior.

### LENTEN SERVICES

## “JESUS CHRIST IS OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST”

If you were given the chance to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to him, would you? The special time of year that we call Lent gives us the opportunity to do just that. Starting Wednesday, **February 14 and continuing through Wednesday, March 21**, we will have special Lenten worship services in **Cataract (4:30 p.m.)** and **Black River Falls (6:30 p.m.)**.

This year, our services will revolve around the theme: “Jesus Christ Is Our Great High Priest.” The theme will focus on how Christ carries out his role as our Priest. Through a study of selections from the book of Hebrews, we will see how Jesus was and is the Great High Priest we need, and how his role as the ultimate High Priest affects the lives of his followers by faith now and for eternity.

**First Lenten Service  
Feb 14**

*Love one another as I have loved you.  
John 13:34*

**From the Church Library**  
The church library located in the BRF Fellowship Hall has a complete set of **The People's Bible**. Each book is a Bible commentary that includes the NIV text with explanations of the text, historical background, and personal applications. These commentaries are guided by two truths - 1) the entire Bible is God's inspired Word and 2) Jesus Christ is the Bible's central message.  
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.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Matt Anderson	2-4
Thomas Danielson	2-6
Jacob Markhardt	2-6
Brad Markhardt	2-7
Tucker Fatla	2-8
Zachary Mueller	2-15
Dave Kellen	2-17
Greg Fatla	2-19
Jerry Kirchman	2-23
Cody Heller	2-25
Keagen Jessie	2-24
Pam Johnson	2-25



**ANNIVERSARY**  
Kirk + Laura Goetzka Feb 14

### **ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY: A BIBLE CLASS**

Islam is one of the largest religions in the world, with over 1 billion followers. It is a monotheistic faith based on revelations received by the Prophet Muhammad. There are frequent references to Islam and Muslims in today's news, but what is true and what is fiction?

In this bible class we will look at the historical beginnings of this religion. We will consider what its holy book, the Quran, has to say about how a Muslim should conduct himself and how he should relate to non-Muslims in the world. We will also discover that Islam is not a united religion but has internal divisions which feud with each other.

What does Islam have to do with Christianity? How can we respond to Islam as we might meet it in American society today? Bring your questions as we examine Islam and Christianity.

This Bible Study begins **Sunday, February 18th at 9:15 a.m. in Black River Falls** and will be led by Pastor James Korthals. It will **continue each Sunday until March 25**.

**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.

*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 Pastor Neumann either in person or at the following email address: [pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com). You may also email Laura Mueller at [muellerlaura@hotmail.com](mailto:muellerlaura@hotmail.com).  
Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month. February 17 is the deadline for the March 2018 newsletter.

## LUTHERAN MOBILE CLINIC (CAMM) LILONGWE, MALAWI JANUARY, 2018

December is the end of the year; January, the beginning. It happens this way every year. It is nothing new, right? Many people use this time to reflect on things they are grateful for in the past year and things they are looking forward to in the New Year.

Well, this December is the end of more than a year for me. It is nearly the end of my three-year tenure as Nurse in Charge. It is the beginning of new adventures for Lutheran Mobile Clinic's new Nurse In Charge, Beth Evans, and it is the beginning of new adventures for me, wherever the Lord will put me!

More importantly, the birth of our Savior is the start of a new beginning for each of us. The beginning of His life became the beginning of ours through God's grace. He loved us so much that He sent His Son to come to Earth, to live a perfect life and pay the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf, so that we can have eternal peace with Him. What an amazing gift we have received.

As my time in Malawi is coming to a close, I've not only been reflecting on this past year, but on the past three years. A friend of mine once described her work in Malawi as "the toughest job [she] ever loved." I've always held that statement quite close to my heart, as I feel like it so succinctly describes my time in Malawi as well. Working as the Nurse In Charge was tough. I learned a lot about tropical medicine, about working in resource limited settings, about working in a different culture, about management and expectations. I've seen and experienced things I would have never imagined—both good and bad. But for all of the challenges, the Lutheran Mobile Clinic does amazing work. In my three years, we have seen more than 158,560 people come through our four clinic doors for care, we've hosted approximately 540 clinic days, and distributed over 1,820 nets to pregnant women—just to name a few quantifiable highlights. There are some highlights I can't put eloquent words to or justify by numbers. There are some experiences that no matter how I describe the details, the description won't be quite right, it won't do the experience justice. But I've been so privileged to be a part of it!

My prayer for this upcoming year is for your continued support of Lutheran Mobile Clinic and Central Africa Medical Mission. Because of your generous support our clinics will continue to provide opportunities to hear the Gospel on a regular basis and provide physical care to every patient that comes to our clinic sites. I also pray the Lord provides a smooth transition for LMC administration as we all adjust to our new beginnings.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (Revelation 22: 13). He is our beginning and our end. Through Him we have everything. With assurance like that, bring on the new adventures!

Yours Sister in Christ,  
Amanda Oswalt



## Faith Lutheran Church Council Meeting SUMMARY From January 15, 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 MEANS OF GRACE.

Present: Pastor Neumann, Dave Kellen, Jerry Kirchman, Brad Rahmlow, Dale Jessie, Grady Severson, Cody Heller, Scott Templeton.

### ELDER'S REPORT

- Death-Arlene Jessie 12/30/17
- Death-Gary Hass 1/11/18

### PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor reviewed a statistical report for the month of December.
- Youth
  - Youth Sunday-January 28
  - Booth at Jackson County Fair
  - Youth Rally-4 committed attendees
- Ministry and Worship
  - Ash Wednesday, February 14th
- Bible Class
  - Pastor has started a Bible Instruction Class with 4 individuals attending
  - On Sundays from February 18 – March 25, at 9:15 a.m. in Black River Falls, a Bible Study on Islam will be presented by Pastor James Korthals



### FINANCIAL REPORT

Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$4,122.37 through the end of December. MSC to accept financial report for December, 2017.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Cody reviewed 2018 Budget proposal.
- Motion to suggest continuing the 8% of offering contribution to tuition reimbursement. MSC vote of 3-2 (this will be presented for final approval at the upcoming voter's meeting)
- Motion to increase CMO contribution by 3% for 2018. MSC (this will be presented for final approval at the upcoming voter's meeting)
- Motion to accept proposed budget for 2018 (shows net income of -\$15,208.26). MSC (this will be presented for final approval at the upcoming voter's meeting).
- The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer. The next Congregational meeting will be at CAT on January 28th 1:00pm.

Recorded By Brad Rahmlow

**.....OUR EVERY PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL NEED**

In a recent adult Bible class and Sunday school lesson we heard the story of Jesus Feeding the Five Thousand. Despite having seen Jesus perform countless miracles, and just recently having returned from being given the “power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases . . . and to heal the sick” (Luke 9:1, 2), the disciples turned to human resources and solutions when Jesus tested them about how to feed so many people. Eventually the disciples realized that human solutions cannot take care of us; but were assured by Jesus that he had the power to provide for every physical and spiritual need.

As we move to the season of Lent, we again have the wonderful opportunity to see how God has blessed us, and how he provides for both our physical needs (in the form of convenient meals) and our souls (mid week Lent services to reflect on and express our gratitude for what he did for us). We see Lent as a special time, a time for repentance and renewal.

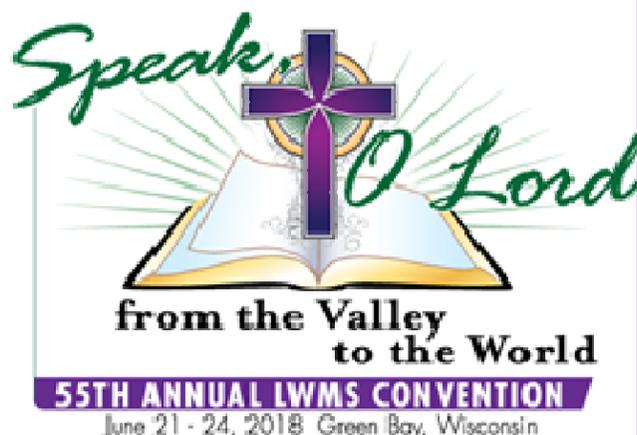
God will not be using a miracle to provide meals before our Wednesday services, but will provide naturally through the blessing and service of our families taking care of each other and our guests. The Ladies of Faith in Black River Falls have been forming teams, with each team working together on two of the six Wednesdays of Lent. The Ladies Aid in Cataract has also been planning their meals. Our church leaders and ladies thank everyone for their kindness and willingness to serve.

Plan ahead starting Wednesday, February 14 and running through March 21 for suppers from 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. at each location; followed by the mid week service at 6:30 p.m. in Black River Falls; and preceded by a service at 4:30 p.m. in Cataract. And remember, Jesus has assured Christians that he has the power to provide for our every physical and spiritual need.

Lenten Meals (Beginning Feb 14)  
Wednesdays—5:30 p.m.  
Both locations

The LWMS Mission Box money is due again. Please give or send it to Linda Jessie by March 18 to be sent in to our circuit treasurer. The money is collected and sent in to the LWMS to fund a particular mission decided on at the annual convention in June.

This year the convention is being held in Green Bay, WI, June 21-24. If anyone is interested in going or wants information, go to the web site: [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org) or contact Linda Jessie.



Ladies of Faith

The Ladies of Faith will be going out to eat! On **February 12th**, the Ladies of Faith will be meeting at Culver’s in Black River Falls for some fellowship. Come for dinner or only dessert and stay for the company. We will meet at 6 pm to eat and socialize! All ladies are welcome!

Future Dates (Watch for details in the coming months)

March 12th	Community project
April 9th	Handiwork night
May 14th	Banner making/photo sharing night
June 11th	Pillowcase sewing
July 9th	Pillowcase sewing



Contact Annette Markhardt with questions

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW (OR MIGHT NOT KNOW) ABOUT YOUR CHURCH

This short article continues a section begun in the newsletter last month. The goal of this section is to keep you as well informed as possible as to the whats, whys, and hows of your congregation.

2. Did you know that our congregation has built in to its budget the ability to help and assist members within our congregation who are experiencing financial difficulties due to a variety of reasons? If you didn't know, it might be because we do not have a specific line item or dollar amount listed on the budget that you see when it is passed each year.

But that doesn't mean it isn't there. Years back, the motion was made and the motion passed that our congregation would stand ready to assist – from our general fund account – members who were going through trying financial challenges. The aide granted to a member in need will vary, because each scenario and circumstance is different.

Throughout the years our congregation has been able to do just that! This is just another way that the offerings given to the Lord by our members are used. In addition to this, in years past individual members have been moved to assist fellow members in need on an individual basis. So, if you or someone you know is in a position where such help is greatly needed, it is just a matter of letting pastor or someone on the church council know about it.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10).

Now you know.