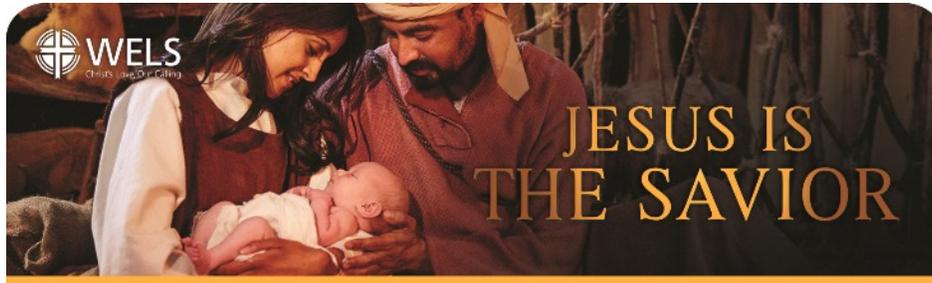


The Messenger

Rooted in Christ.  Reaching Out With The Word.

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

JUNE 2016



Jesus is My Savior by Faith

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” - Mark 15:16

In many places, June ushers in warmer weather. Summer begins in earnest, and that means people like to be outside and enjoy the warm temperatures. One activity that many enjoy is swimming. It might be a backyard pool, a community pool or beach, or even a lawn sprinkler. Whatever the method, people love to get wet.

Followers of Jesus get wet too, when they are baptized. Baptism is a wonderful gift of God where water is applied and the words are spoken as Jesus commanded, “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). When those words and the water are combined like this, according to Jesus' promise, baptisms take place. Through this special means, God creates faith in people—infant or adult. Sins are washed away, and by faith in Jesus God makes them members of his family.

After baptism, learning continues so that people grow in their faith and grow closer to God for the confidence and joy of life with God both now and

forever. There is much to learn and know in the Bible. It guides us. It refreshes us. And its message saves us! It is the “living water” (John 4:10) that Jesus gives us. Much more refreshing than any pool or beach or sprinkler! It quenches our thirst for belonging to God, for truth about God, and for true peace with God. The Word of God creates and strengthens faith in Jesus as our Savior.

Without faith in Jesus, people will be “condemned,” that is, lost forever in hell when they die. As Christians, we seek to invite everyone to hear Jesus' message and be baptized, so hell is not their destiny. This is because Jesus told us to baptize and teach, so that people can have saving faith and will enjoy heaven when they die.

Many people think of summer as a gift, when we have rest and relaxation. But the real gift that lasts forever—no matter the weather—is the gift of faith in Jesus that comes through baptism and God's Word! Come and share with us the joy of being members of God's family.

FAITH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

MAY 16TH

Attendance: Pastor Neumann, D. Scott Templeton, F. Cody Heller, Dale Jessie, Todd Volk, Dave Kellen

OPENING – Pastor Neumann – shared excerpts from Exodus chapter 14, concerning our fearful or anxious moments. Scripture assures us that the Lord will fight for us, and we can confidently say that heaven is our home because the Lord fought for us!

OPENING OF MEETING: Acceptance of Minutes of April 18, 2016 meeting, MSC

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Neumann – highlights:

- Confirmation of Wyatt Folgers May15
- BIC class ongoing in BRF
- Worship sermons this summer will be a series on the Beatitudes; Pastor is on vacation July 10 and July 31; reminder of the joint worship service in BRF July 17; August 28 will be Education Sunday
- Pastor updated the council on Luther High School items
- District convention is in June and a lay delegate is encouraged to attend with Pastor
- The next quarterly Congregational Meeting will be moved to August 7 to assure that Pastor and Scott can be present

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Christian Education Funding – Scripturally sound discussion was had concerning what plan to follow beginning in 2017

Pastor had asked area churches in our circuit what they do:

- 7/9 provide funding for LES (amounts undefined)
- 7/9 provide funding for high school (amounts undefined)
- 4/9 provide funding for MLC/seminary (amounts undefined)

2. Luther High School Rise Up and Build – Pastor presented the fund raising concept; we will make available the Every Member Mailing for our congregational members.

- Pastor will also develop for use in fall 2016, and we will encourage all members to attend the one session stewardship focused Bible class; with a generalized focus on stewardship, to include keeping our Faith Alive drive in focus for our members.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Prison Ministry – Pastor Heidrich (chaplain at JCI) will be retiring and has asked Pastor Neumann to consider doing a Bible class every other Tuesday. MSC approved.

CLOSING: Lord's Prayer



Devon Dennis	6/01
Wyatt Anderson	6/02
Janeen Folgers	6/04
Pastor Ron Baerbock	6/09
Nancy Kirchman	6/11
Adam Jessie	6/12
Gary Haas	6/12
Jake Dahlke	6/16
Logan Leisso	6/16
Pastor Joel Neumann	6/16
Malachi Neumann	6/17
Tyler Jessie	6/19
Zach Granahan	6/23
Alisa Volk	6/24
Rachel Neumann	6/24
Karen Baerbock	6/25
Taylor Hertz	6/26
Sherry Bue	6/28

SUMMER'S HERE . . . NOW WHAT?

Are you afraid of Satan? That might sound like a strange question—but how do you answer it? Really, the answer is both yes and no.

We are not afraid of Satan because as believers in Jesus as our Savior, we are **“convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38,39).**

Satan is a demon, and Jesus tells us through Paul that no demon will be able to separate us from God. What a tremendous comfort that is to us. We are in the most powerful, the absolute safest pair of hands ever—the hands of Jesus who sacrificed himself to buy us back from Satan and keep us as his own. This is his promise—and God cannot and will not go back on his promise. As we continue to make use of the Word of God and let the Holy Spirit keep the fire of faith burning brightly, we need not for one second be afraid of Satan.

But didn't I also say the answer is yes? Yes I did. The reason for that is because Satan is constantly trying to rob us of our faith. Every day Satan is trying whatever method he can to try and keep us from believing in Jesus. There isn't, nor will there ever be, a moment in our Christian life that Satan will not be trying to do some damage to our faith. And here's the kicker—he is way more powerful, way more tricky, way more cunning, and way more wise than we are.

One of the most common ways he seeks to do this is by getting God's children to ignore, despise, and set aside the hearing and learning of his Word. And how often don't we play right into his hands when we worship less during the summer? Or when we decide we don't need as much time in private devotions? Or when we skip out on Holy Communion? If you are tempted to do that, be afraid. You are playing with fire.

This is serious stuff, because the one weapon we have against Satan's attack is the Word of God. In the Word, God comes to us and shows us his amazing love that sent Jesus to die for us. In this Word God comes to us and assures us we are forgiven. In his Word God comes to us and gives us the strength to say no to Satan's assaults on our faith. Only through that Word is our faith strengthened and kept alive for the day we are called to stand before God.

So dear Christian, make use of the Word, study the Word, hear the Word, devour the Word...and then go about your summer and your Christian life and don't be afraid. After all, we have the greatest weapon and the best armor. Now use it:

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes...Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:10-11,13-17)

Ladies of Faith

Project Meeting

We will be meeting June 13 and July 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the BRF location to make pillowcases for the Bolton Refuge House. We will need ladies to iron and cut fabric and to sew. Even if you do not sew, there will be work for you! If you have any leftover fabric that would be suitable for pillowcases (soft) please consider donating it. We need one yard of 42 inch wide fabric for the main part of the case and about 10 inches for the "band".

We are in need also of a few ironing boards and irons, and maybe 3 to 4 more sewing machines. Any questions, call Annette M. or Carolyn D.



Faith Outreach Meeting

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

Agenda items include Facebook discussion, home devotion project, and Faith Family Fun Nights.

Our meeting will take place Wednesday, June 8, at 3:00 p.m. in the BRF church building.

Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone. (Luke 9:21)

Confession Means Faithfulness

What a strange thing for Jesus to command his followers. They were not supposed to tell anyone that he was the Christ. That sounds strange in our ears. We are constantly reminded to let our light shine, to tell the good news about Jesus. Why would Jesus strictly warn his disciples not to repeat Peter's wonderful confession?

Put very simply, he gave that command because of faithfulness. He was being faithful to his Father's mission of salvation. The Jews of Jesus' day had developed a distorted picture of the Christ and his mission. They saw him as an earthly conqueror. They pictured him as a powerful ruler. They envisioned him as a glorious leader. But they didn't see him as a Savior from sin who would suffer and die. Had word gone out that Jesus was the Christ, armies might have been raised, but the battle against sin and Satan would have been lost. Jesus commanded silence about Peter's confession so that he could carry out the work he needed to do.

That faithfulness of Jesus was for your sake. It was because of you that he wanted his identity kept secret for a time. He wanted the entire world to know his love for you from his actions, not from the world's mistaken ideas. So he defined what it meant to be the Christ by faithfully carrying out the work of paying for your sins.

Now this Christ, who was faithful to his Father in rescuing you, calls you to be faithful, not by silence, but by speech. The strict warning not to tell anyone who Jesus is has changed into a loving invitation to preach to all nations the work of Christ. His faithfulness leads you to be faithful by talking about Jesus with your family and friends. His faithfulness leads you to generously support the work of your congregation and missions abroad with your time, talents, and treasures.

In retrospect, maybe it isn't so strange that Jesus commanded his disciples to be silent. After all, even that command was driven by his faithfulness to our salvation. God grant that Jesus' faithfulness would inspire us to be faithful to him.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for your faithfulness to my salvation. Help me to faithfully confess your love for sinners in my words and actions. Let others come to trust in your grace through my confession of that grace. Amen

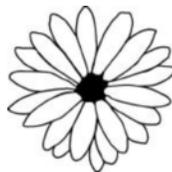
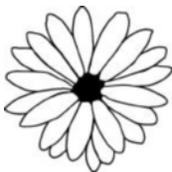
*Meditations: NPH June 22, 2016
What it means to confess the Christ*

SUMMER DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

❖ *July 17 - Joint Worship Service*

- Psalm 133 says, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!" Across the pages of God's Word we read again and again about the blessing of Christian unity and fellowship; about the benefits we receive from brothers and sisters in the faith; and about the way our Lord wants us to continue to build that unity. We will seek to build our unity at Faith with a joint worship service and fellowship meal on July 17.
- On this Sunday there will just be one service held at 10 a.m. in Black River Falls. The church council and ladies of Faith will provide the meal and games for young and old will be available. Next year, we will hold this service in Cataract.

❖ *Faith Family Fun Nights – August 8th, 9th, and 10th*



June 2nd

Mark & Amber Hanson

June 8th

Greg & Elaine Fatla

June 14th

Jake & Allison Dahlke

June 15th

Ken & Carolyn Diener

June 17th

Mark & Laura Miller

June 26th

Brad & Kelly Rahmlow

Devotion Opportunity

Starting in June, the Outreach Committee will be rolling out a devotion opportunity for families and individuals that will make use of Pastor's sermons. The prayer is that this will provide another option - as well as an encouragement - to let the word of Christ dwell in us richly (Colossians 3:16). Ministry minutes are being planned to help introduce this new opportunity and they will be presented starting in June. May the God of all grace bless us all through this endeavor.



Father's Day

June 19th



It's the world's most famous sermon...but how much of it do you know? What sermon, you ask? Well, let me give you a hint: "Blessed are the poor in spirit...blessed are the meek...blessed are those who are persecuted."

Do you know what sermon it is? If you guessed Jesus' Sermon on the Mount you're right. In this sermon Jesus begins with what we speak of as the beatitudes (statements of blessings). There are eight of them. He says things like: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" and "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Sounds great, but what does it really mean? Find out during our *Summer Sermon Series on the Beatitudes* starting June 5.

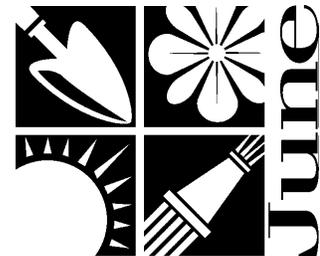
JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE & GAMES COORDINATOR

We are planning a joint worship service this summer with our two locations meeting in BRF for one service at 10 a.m. on July 17. After service that day we will have some time for fellowship with a meal and some games. We are seeking someone who might be an organizer of those games.

If you would be interested, please speak with Pastor or Brad Markhardt.

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.faithwels.com



Black River Falls & Cataract, WI

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 or information:

Contact Alisa Volk either in person or at the following e-mail address: aavpc@hotmail.com.

Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month. June 18th is the deadline for the July, 2016 newsletter.