

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 addresses:

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

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

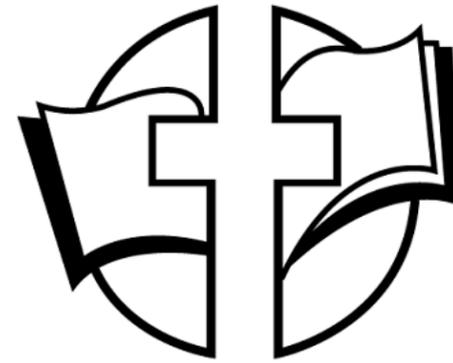


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The Messenger

March 2018

Love is patient, love is kind. (1 Corinthians 13:4)

Love is the mother of Christian virtues. In the words from 1 Corinthians this month, Paul tells us that love is "patient" and "kind." And we see examples of these excellent fruits of love most clearly in our Lord Jesus himself.

Jesus was patient both with his friends and with his enemies. When his disciples were slow to understand the uniqueness of his person and his mission, Jesus showed patience and understanding. When his enemies were quick to condemn him, Jesus suffered long and was patient.

Especially during Lent we reflect on his patient love. In the courts of the religious, before Caiaphas and Annas, Jesus was falsely accused and shamefully mistreated. In the courts of the state, before Pilate and Herod, Jesus was scourged, crowned with thorns, and condemned to death. He suffered the agony of Peter's denial and being deserted by his disciples.

Yet, never did he say, "that's the last time; the last straw." Never did he complain, "can't you just get it together, you're worthless." Never did he use his power – even just a little bit – to get back at those who mistreated him. No, instead he followed the pathway of sorrow to Calvary, where his love and patience moved him to pray for his enemies, stay on the cross, and pay the penalty for our sins and the sins of all.

It is these truths that we need to tattoo on our hearts and always keep in mind when we find ourselves suffering at the hands of mean, uncaring, unpleasant, or ignorant individuals. That's because instead of being patient, there is a great

temptation to be resentful, to become angry, to speak bitter words, to seek revenge, or to refuse forgiveness. Because our sinful nature is constantly inclined to be unkind and impatient, we need to go back to our Savior. We need to look and take in what he did for us and then learn from him what it means to be loving and patient.

When we do that, we will see another characteristic of love that Jesus teaches us – kindness.

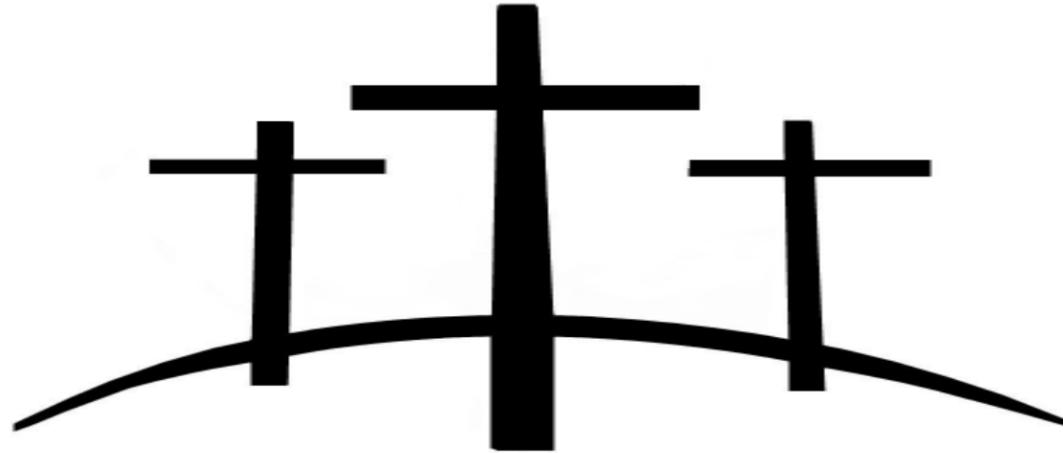
Perhaps that kindness is defined best in a passage like this: "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7).

As you consider that passage, note these three amazing and awesome characteristics of Jesus' kindness. 1) It is given to people who don't deserve it ("not because of righteous things we had done"). 2) He is the one who is doing all the giving ("he saved us; he poured out on us generously"). 3) His kindness produced excellent results ("justified; heirs...of eternal life").

Who can measure the patience and kindness he has shown us in forgiving us our many sins and keeping his promises! May his abiding love move us always to be patient and kind to one another.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25 – 8:00 A.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS) 9:45 A.M. (CATARACT)	MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29 – 4:30 P.M. (CATARACT) – 6:30 P.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)	GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30 – 4:30 P.M. (CATARACT) – 6:30 P.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS)	EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1 – 8:00 A.M. (BLACK RIVER FALLS) – 9:45 A.M. (CATARACT)
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JESUS CARES WORSHIP AT THE CROSS

Our congregation will be starting a new Jesus Cares program on **Monday, March 26, at 6 p.m.** in our Black River Falls church building. This program will provide individuals with special needs the opportunity to hear God's Word, participate in activities and engage in fellowship with family members, volunteers and community members.

The Worship at the Cross program 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.

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 and outreach material will be made available in the coming weeks.

Crosses for Nursing Home Residents

The Ladies of Faith will be making plastic canvas crosses for nursing home residents. We will meet at our regular meeting time, 6—8 pm on March 12, 2018 in Black River Falls. Everyone is welcome to come!



FIDGET BLANKET FREE-FOR-ALL

The Ladies Aid in Cataract INVITES YOU to a morning of fellowship as they make fidget blankets for people with Alzheimer's and dementia. What is a fidget blanket, you ask? Well, let me try to explain. A fidget blanket is a small lap-blanket meant to help occupy the agitated, restless and fidgety hands of people who struggle with Alzheimer's and dementia. Sewn on the blankets are things like zippers, buttons, ribbon, silk, frilly edges, even small stuffed animals and pockets. If you are interested in coming, here are the details:

WHEN: Saturday, March 3 at 9:00 a.m.

WHERE: Faith, Cataract

WHAT TO BRING: 15 in. by 20 inch piece(s) of fleece/fabric, sewing machine if you have one (will be provided if you don't have one)

WHAT ELSE TO BRING: Things to sew onto your blanket (more ideas can be found on the internet by googling "fidget blankets")

ANYTHING ELSE: A potluck lunch will be served so bring a dish to pass.

March Birthdays!

3-5 Emily Timm
3-9 John Pleau
3-11 Linda Jessie
3-17 Ric Knas
3-21 Dave Spaude
3-21 Dawn Manske
3-21 Carolyn Diener
3-21 Chase Manske
3-21 Amber Hanson
3-22 Kevin Keisow
3-23 Charlie Severson
3-27 Karin Jandt
3-30 Zach Markhardt



March Wedding Anniversaries

3-20 Todd & Alisa Volk
3-24 Grady & Nina Severson

CHOIR IN BLACK RIVER FALLS RESUMES

Choir practice will resume on **Thursday, March 8th**, at 6:15 p.m.

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.

3. Did you know that our congregation financially supports Luther High School as an association congregation? If you aren't familiar with Luther High School, it is a parochial high school located in Onalaska, WI which provides a Christ-centered education that encourages and equips students for life and for eternity. It was opened in 1957 and is operated by an association of 29 Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod churches within a fifty mile radius of La Crosse. The majority of students come from these congregations.

To be an association congregation of Luther High is a two-way blessing. For Luther High, it means that we as a congregation commit to support Luther High with a certain dollar amount included in our budget each year. This in turn allows Luther High to work on their budget knowing that a certain amount of support will be coming from association congregations. Our commitment to Luther High for 2018 is \$1,100.00.

For our congregation, it means reduced tuition for any children of our congregation who wish to enroll at Luther High; as well as a constant stream of communication coming to our congregation from Luther High. For more information about Luther High, go to www.lutherhigh.org.

Now you know.



What is LWMS ?

The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) is made up of mission-minded women of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) as well as women belonging to congregations that share fellowship with WELS.

LWMS was formed in 1964 and today is over 800 member congregations organized in 60 circuits throughout North America. Every woman in a member congregation is by virtue of her church membership a member of LWMS.

We encourage women to learn about and pray for our mission efforts in North America and around the world and to support those missions with their offerings as we share the privilege and responsibilities of

the work our Lord has called us to do.

The work of LWMS is urgent. Though we have the knowledge and comfort of Jesus' gift of salvation, millions of souls do not have that comfort and are in despair. Every day we have the opportunity to share with people the greatest gift, the gift of their Savior. As the Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the early Roman church, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in" And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"

Attend a Convention!

LWMS conventions are a special opportunity to annually experience the excitement of mission work and to spiritually uplift and renew our commitment to support WELS missions with our prayers and material blessings. At each convention we have the opportunity to experience the following:

Worship Services and Devotions

Gather around Word and Sacrament with believers from around the world.

Confess our human frailties and ask the Lord to renew our spirits and make us more mission minded.

Thank God for all the blessings he has showered upon the mission fields around the world.

Receive encouragement and direction from pastors working in mission fields.

Pray for God's continued blessing on our mission endeavors worldwide.

Mission Speakers

Hear personal accounts of the opportunities and obstacles missionary families have faced in the individual fields.

Gain awareness and sensitivity to the body of Christ in other cultures. Visit with the missionaries on a one-to-one basis.

Workshops

Hear how a variety of approaches have been used to meet the needs in different mission fields.

Learn how to use resources to personally be better missionaries--take home renewed zeal to save souls. Discover new ways to support others actively serving in mission fields.

Mission Displays

View displays that depict the culture and lifestyle of the people with whom we are sharing God's saving Word.

Speak with representatives who share the information about their particular mission field.

Fellowship Opportunities

Build friendships with mission-minded people from around the world.

Enjoy the company of fellow believers.

Delight in the talents and blessings God has given each of us.

The theme for the 2018 Annual LWMS Convention, "Speak, O Lord from the Valley to the World," focuses us on many truths of God's Word. 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 or contact Linda Jessie.

Lutheran Mobile Clinic (CAMM) Lilongwe, Malawi February, 2018

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Greetings from the warm heart of Africa,

Are you a planner? I am. At this time of year many people plan what they'd like to accomplish during the year and beyond. As I finish my term of service with Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi, I am starting to plan for what comes next. Though planning of at least some degree is wise and sensible, what happens when plans are upset? Do you feel frustrated or angry, wondering where you went wrong?

The Israelites, to whom this promise in Jeremiah was first made, certainly wondered what went wrong. Being defeated and carried off into exile wasn't what they expected to happen. One day they were making plans and going about their lives and the next they were captives in a foreign land.

Some of the rural Malawians that the Lutheran Mobile Clinic serves are wrestling with very grim situations, just like many other people throughout the world. Grave illnesses, the death of the main breadwinner, flood and drought, the breakup of families and other consequences of living in a sinful world have snuffed out the survival plans of some of these people. In these circumstances it is easy to forget that God is watching and intervening for their good. Hope is fleeting and a prosperous future seems impossible. They may be tempted to think that God is guessing and hinting, rather than knowing and declaring His plans for their lives. They may wonder if God's promises apply to them.

How about you? Do you ever wonder if God's promises apply to you? Perhaps unexpected circumstances have led you to seek another job, though you loved the one you had. Has an illness or the death of a loved one taken the joy and contentment out of your daily life? Maybe most of your plans have evaporated along with your wealth and you are wondering what your future holds.

Be assured that God's promise in Jeremiah is to us, just as it was to the Israelites. But it is not just to us; it is also about us. Do you define prosperity by what you have, or by what you share? What is "enough" and in what or whom do you hope? Are you prosperous because you have a certain net worth or because you have all you need? Is it "enough" to maintain the hope of eternity in heaven and live at peace with God through Jesus, or is your time and energy centered on how much you can acquire?

God is the source of every blessing and everything belongs to Him. But He places us and gives to each of us as He sees fit, expecting that we use His gifts to benefit others. No matter what your situation is, you can always do something for someone in need, whatever that need looks like. If you have time, offer it; develop your talents, and use them; if you have money, share it; if nothing else, be a prayer warrior.

As we make our plans, let's remember that God knows what we need for our lives and He promises to provide it as we are focusing on Him, His ways and His kingdom. Everything else is just details!

Your sister in Christ,

Amanda Artz, Clinic Administrator

Lutheran Mobile Clinic, Malawi

