

## MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

### Outreach Meeting

Sunday – March 1 @ 12:30 p.m. in Black River Falls

### Ladies Aid

Thursday—March 5 @ 12:30 p.m. in Cataract

### Ad Hoc Child Protection

Saturday—March 7 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls

### Ladies of Faith

Tuesday – March 10 @ 6:00 p.m. in Black River Falls

### Elders Meeting

Tuesday – March 12 @ 6:00 pm in Cataract

### FiSH Catan

Saturday—March 14 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

### Faith Teachers Meeting

Sunday – March 22 @ 6 pm in Black River Falls

### Youth Group

Sunday—March 29 @ 2 p.m. in Black River Falls

## SCHEDULE CHANGE

During the season of Lent our normal Wednesday confirmation and Bible study classes will move to Mondays. We will still meet at 5:30 p.m. for confirmation and 7 p.m. for Bible Study.

**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.



N6598 County Highway A  
Black River Falls, WI 54615  
(mailing address)

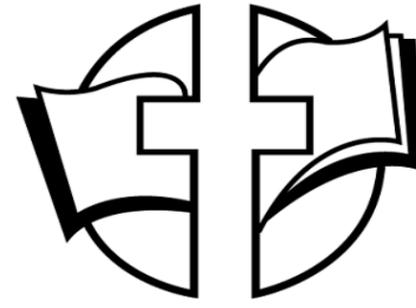
N6774 Acorn Ave.  
Sparta, WI 54656

Phone: 715-284-0772  
Pastor: Joel Neumann

We're on the Web!  
[www.faithwels.com](http://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, please contact Laura Mueller at the following email address: [muellerlaura@hotmail.com](mailto:muellerlaura@hotmail.com). You can also contact Pastor Neumann either in person or at the following email address: [pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com). Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.



# The Messenger

March 2020

## The Great Exchange

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible. This month's favorite Bible verse is:

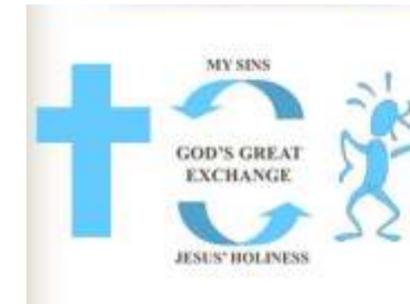
Isaiah 53:5

*"He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."*

Life is filled with exchanges. Employees exchange forty hours for a paycheck. Fans exchange forty dollars for a seat at the game (and then exchange another ten dollars for a hotdog and drink)! Every day we exchange time, money, effort, and emotion for what we hope brings us joy, peace, and satisfaction.

The Bible speaks about exchanges, too. It says that God does not want us to have any sin. In fact, he says that if we do sin, we cannot live with him because he is a sinless, holy God. Sin is so serious to God that he pronounces the death penalty for anyone who sins. He says, "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23) and "The soul who sins is the one who will die" (Ezekiel 18:20). So, who can ever hope to stand in God's presence and enjoy his favor? For try as we

his wounds we are healed."



might, we are not perfect. Sinful thoughts, words, and acts clutter our lives.

There is good news, however. In love for us, God made an exchange. Instead of holding us under his judgment for all our wrongdoing, he placed his Son under judgment instead of us. The Bible is speaking about Jesus when it says, "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by

That is a great exchange! Jesus came and exchanged his life for ours. Our transgressions (times when we fail to live according to God's holy will) were taken away when Jesus was pierced on the cross. Our iniquities (all the things we think or do that don't measure up to God's perfect will) were taken away when Jesus was crushed in death. Our punishment was paid for by Jesus.

Through Jesus you have peace with God. Through his wounds you are given life with God. Through Jesus you are forgiven and loved by God. Yes, you! God chose to make that exchange for you.



Here in Malawi, it's another rainy season. I wake up on clinic days and if I hear rain on our metal roof, or see threatening clouds, I wonder what our commute to the village will be like on mainly dirt roads. Thankfully we have our amazing Landcruiser, a great driver, and today the rain didn't start until we were nearly on the paved road again. I was able to watch the scenes on our way to Thunga- the amazing green of the hills and fields with maize growing high, a small boy herding nervous goats, men riding bicycles carrying heavy loads of firewood, women in bright zitenje with baskets on their heads and babies on their backs walking to market, and little children smiling and waving at us. What struck me on the drive was three different adults who were going about their work outdoors stopping to give us a smile and thumbs up. They know the Lutheran vehicle and where we are headed. They know that our staff will soon be caring for the sick in their rural community, as well as seeing that women and children receive preventive healthcare. They count on us.

We arrive at clinic where dozens of men, women and children were sitting in the shade, or getting weighed by our village staff. As our maintenance worker helps to unload all of our supplies from the ambulance, a church elder, Moses, starts a devotion with singing a hymn with the crowd, then shares scripture and preaches a short sermon in Chichewa. I listen while checking over the crowd to look for anyone who might need immediate medical attention. We sing another hymn and he ends with a blessing. One of our RNs then gives a health talk on scabies, a very common skin infection.

Our registrar then finishes the task of registering the outpatients. The new pregnant women (antenatals) come to my station to have their hemoglobin levels checked. The lines for malaria testing form, as we identify those with symptoms including fever. Our nurse-midwives begin organizing the antenatal, family planning and under-fives' lines. Nurses in the pharmacy prepare all of the medicines to dispense. Our Health Surveillance Assistants (government employees) start giving tetanus vaccine to pregnant women, and soon there is a constant cry of well babies getting their vaccines in under-fives' clinic. The outpatients are then seen by our clinician, treated for illnesses including malaria, respiratory illnesses, arthritis, skin conditions, diarrhea, anemia, hypertension, asthma and epilepsy. A baby is diagnosed with pneumonia, receives antibiotic injections and is referred to the hospital. Our nutritionist identifies moms with underweight children and enrolls them in our nutrition program where they will have instruction and receive supplemental maize and soya. Clients are tested for HIV, receive counseling and are referred to receive treatment as needed.

All of this happens at each of our four village clinics on a regular basis. We saw 46,141 patients in 2019. So much goes into making it all happen. My husband Gary, as administrator, is behind the scenes making sure our staff is paid, vehicles and buildings are maintained and the budget balances. As nurse in charge, I must ensure we have adequate supply of medicines, test kits, food supplements, and vaccines. This includes what we buy and what we receive free from the government, such as the malaria treatment medication we refer to as LA. Recently, there has been shortages of this, and we are thankful we still have enough to treat our patients. It involves a lot of driving, careful planning and communication. But it also involves trusting God, asking him to provide for our needs in serving his children here in Malawi. It involves all of your prayers and donations which allow this work to continue with the Lutheran Mobile Clinic, for which we are sincerely thankful.

“And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”. Phil. 4:19

Your sister in Christ,  
Beth Evans

**LENTEN WORSHIP – “THE SON OF GOD GOES FORTH TO WAR”**

Wednesday Midweek Lenten services continue this month as we follow the theme: *The Son of God Goes Forth to War*.

The Bible is full with imagery and descriptions of our Savior Jesus as the warrior who fights and defeats sin, death, and Satan. Throughout this Lenten series we will focus on an aspect of our Savior-warrior as he is promised to us, fights our enemies for us, and triumphs over them for us.

We pray that the Lord richly bless our Lenten worship so that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened in order to “know the hope to which he has called [us], the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe” (Ephesians 1:18,19)

**HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE A ROMAN SOLDIER...**

AND witness to our community the saving love of our Lord! The sign-up sheets are posted at both worship locations for our annual live tomb display. Sign-up early for the “best” times - maybe that includes a stint on one of our late night/early morning “integrity shifts” ☺.

Like last year, there will be three hour shifts of two or three Roman guards in front of the closed tomb from 7:30 p.m. Friday (after the BRF Good Friday service) to 5:30 a.m. Easter Sunday. At that time the tomb is opened we will have two angels waving to people as they come to the BRF service at 8 a.m. We will have snacks, a fire pit for warmth and electric lighting for night. There will be handouts for anyone that stops with questions about what we are doing.



This is a living display, not a reenactment. Men, women and children may help guard the tomb as Roman soldiers – we will need a lot of help with this. This is very enjoyable fellowship! Come forward and help us witness to our community the saving love of our Lord.

Contact Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt with any questions.

**March Birthdays**

Richard Treptow	3/3
Emily Timm	3/5
John Pleau	3/9
Warren Timm	3/11
Linda Jessie	3/11
Jim Christie	3/19
Dave Spaude	3/21
Dawn Manske	3/21
Carolyn Diener	3/21
Jayden Bedell	3/21
Mackenzie Bedell	3/21
Chase Manske	3/21
Kevin Keisow	3/22
Charlie Severson	3/23
Karin Jandt	3/27
Bruce Olsen	3/31

**March Anniversaries**

Grady & Nina Severson 3/24

## GOOD STEWARD REPORT

*(Good steward is a resale shop located at 1930 Rose St in La Crosse and is run by WELS congregations in support of Luther High School)*



### GOD'S BLESSINGS

2019 is another year for which we say, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever." Our total receipts were \$708,190.00, which is a 1.75% increase over the previous year. We were able to donate \$264,250.00 to Luther High School and \$107,620.00 to other charities, most of which went to area Lutheran elementary schools. We pray that the Lord will enable to continue supporting Christian education in the year which lies before us.

### MORE WORKERS

Good Steward has a large number of volunteers who work in our store. We thank God for all of them. But we can always use more workers. Recently we have had more students from Luther High School working in our store. We thank Mr. John Byus for working out these arrangements. If you have some time to support Christian education by working at Good Steward, or if you know someone else who might be willing to help, please come to Good Steward or invite others to come at regular business hours to find out more. Good Steward is a good place to work with fellow Christians. Good Steward is also a place where you can help to support a very worthy cause-Christian education on the high school and elementary school level.

The daily work at Good Steward is supervised by Store Coordinators, who are another valuable blessing for us. Because God continues to bless us with growth and expansion, the board is currently studying the possibility of hiring a Store Leader, who will help us to be better organized and to operate more efficiently.

### GOOD STEWARD GRANTS

One of the ways in which Good Steward helps families with the rising cost of Christian education is thru our grant program. Volunteers who work a minimum number of hours at Good Steward are invited to nominate a student for a grant. Last year the grants for Luther students were \$875 (1<sup>st</sup> child) and \$615 (2<sup>nd</sup> child) and for elementary schools \$450 (1<sup>st</sup> child) and \$315 (other children). We want to remind everyone that the deadline for working the minimum hours to nominate a student for the 2020-2021 school year is May 31. Anyone who has questions should call (608-799-9763) or stop in at Good Steward and ask for a Coordinator.

## **LIBRARY CORNER**

The difficult issues section of our church library located in the fellowship hall at our BRF location has the book, *Other Sheep* by Pastor Arnold H. Schroeder. Chaplain Schroeder was the first full-time institutional missionary for the WELS, serving for 42 years. In this book, Pastor Schroeder takes us into hospitals, prisons, veterans' facilities, and convalescent homes to visit the "other sheep" that are often forgotten by the outside world but never forgotten by the Good Shepherd, Jesus.

To checkout, write the date, your name, and the name of the book/DVD/CD in the notebook on the shelf.



## FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

February 17, 2020

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting opened at 6:00 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a devotion focused on Engaging Members in Ministry.

Attendance: Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Dave Spaude, Kirk Geotzka, Rick Treptow, Brad Markhardt

### ELDER'S REPORT

The following actions will be ratified at the next congregational meeting a. Release of RYANNE RODGERS MSC b. Transfer out of Lloyd and Kimberly Harter (Eleanor) Moved Seconded Consensus (MSC)

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of January

Council granted Pastor's request for July 19, July 26 and August 23 to be vacation Sundays

Pastor brought a copy of an "Emergency Building Use Agreement" from the Red Creek Elementary School and BRF School District. This will give Red Creek Elementary School the permission to make use of the Faith Church Building as a shelter in case of an emergency. One thing noted in the agreement is that "The Shelter Provider (Faith Lutheran Church ) shall provide an authorized person of the School District a key in order to access the facility in the event of an emergency." The Council gave approval for this.

Pastor updated the Council on an opportunity to host an outreach workshop here at Faith on April 25, 2020 from 9-11:30 a.m. This workshop would be presented by "Truth in Love" Ministries and would be open to members of our congregation and the congregation members of our circuit. It would follow this basic format: 1) A window into the heart of the lost 2) Practical witnessing tips 3) Helping individuals get witnessing started. The council commented that our congregation is not centrally located in our circuit and perhaps another congregation more centrally located would invite greater participation. Pastor will look to the other congregations of our circuit. The possibility of Faith hosting is not out of the question.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Brad compiled a financial report showing a net loss of \$5,905.75 through the end of January. MSC to accept financial report for January, 2020

### SPECIAL REPORTS

Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt

### OLD BUSINESS

Jerry presented his findings on church security after his meeting with a police officer. The property committee will meet to discuss further action.

### NEW BUSINESS

Council Elections: Garrett Jessie – Secretary Kirk Geotzka – Trustee Dave Spaude – Elder Rick Treptow – Financial Secretary Dale Jessie – President Brad Rahmlow – Treasurer

Council decided to try (on a trial basis) to consolidate council meetings before congregational meetings to be able to better provide information ahead of time to the congregation.

The new church council men will be installed February 23rd

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

The next Council Meeting will be held in Black River Falls on April 6 at 6 p.m.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

## Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include concert in the park and mentorship program idea. Our meeting will take place Sunday, March 1, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.

## Easter for Kids

Plan to come and discover the good news of Easter and what Jesus' resurrection means on Saturday, April 4, from 9-11 a.m. This one day Easter for Kids event is for children ages 3-10 and will include Bible-based activity stations, songs, crafts, games, and an EASTER EGG HUNT. Watch the bulletin for more information.

## YOUTH GROUP LOCK-IN

The Youth Group will be having a lock-in at our Black River Falls location on Friday—March 13, starting at 5 p.m. The Youth Group is open to all youth 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

Please watch the bulletin and your email for more information.

## Spend some island time with FiSH!

The FiSH group (Faith's Social Harbor) invites adults for an enjoyable evening playing *Catan*. Called "the board game of our time," *Catan* is a fun strategy game that is easy to learn. Picture yourself in the era of discoveries: after a long voyage of great deprivation, your ships have finally reached the coast of an uncharted, uninhabited island, Catan. But you are not the only discoverer. Other fearless seafarers have also landed on the shores of Catan: the race to settle the island has begun! Experience is NEVER required with any of our activities – come, learn and have fun! We'll meet Saturday, March 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the BRF building location. This is a great opportunity for you to invite a friend, relative, or coworker. FiSH is our social group geared toward recreational activities for adults, single or married, younger or older.

# DEVOTED

ACTS 2:42-47



## New Bible Study

Our Synod, together with our congregation, has consistently voiced its objections to Scouting for several reasons. Do you know why? It has to do with the Bible's teaching on Fellowship. This next Bible Study—titled *Devoted*—will take a look at the current Scouting organization to determine whether Scouting has changed in a way that would remove the objectionable features. In this twelve-lesson study we will look at Scripture as well as quotations taken directly from Scouting resources. In doing so, we will see that those things which go contrary to God's Word still remain.

**This Bible Study will start Monday, March 23 at 7 p.m. in Black River Falls.**

