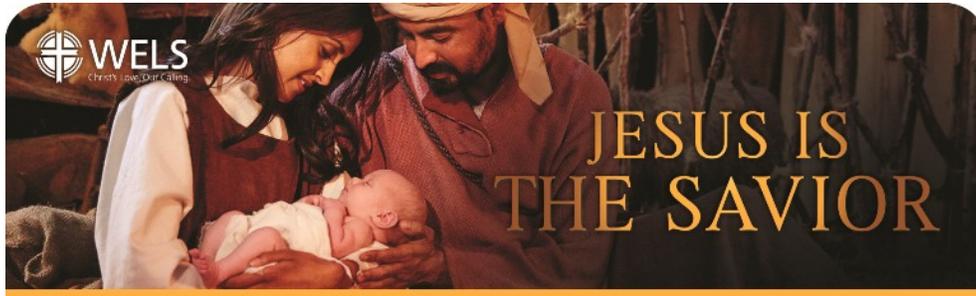


# The Messenger

Rooted in Christ.  Reaching Out With The Word.

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

MARCH 2016



## Jesus is the Risen Savior

“Because I live, you also will live.” – John 14:19

### EMPTY

Finding something empty can leave you feeling a wide variety of emotions. When you have a craving for something sweet, you reach into the cookie jar to satisfy yourself. However, when all you find are crumbs, you feel \_\_\_\_\_. When you let your teenager use the car for the weekend and on Monday morning, when you are late for work and you see the fuel gauge on empty, you feel \_\_\_\_\_! When you prepare to pay bills and find your saving account is empty, you feel \_\_\_\_\_! When death has emptied your life of mom, dad, grandma, grandpa, child or best friend, you feel \_\_\_\_\_!

Perhaps you filled in the blanks with words such as *devastated, disappointed, frustrated, angry*. Finding something empty is usually never good. I do not think anyone has ever been happy finding an empty treasure chest. I do not think anyone working in the hot sun has felt overjoyed having an empty water bottle. I do not think waitressing for a table of six and find the tip tray empty has ever caused anyone to cry tears of happiness. To be honest, finding something empty is all of these—*devastating, disappointing, frustrating, anger provoking!*

That is—until this month! This March God’s Word once again leads us to Jesus’ tomb. It is here at Jesus’ tomb where we hear the angel proclaim, “He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him” (Mark 16:6). From reading the Bible, what do we find when we look into the tomb? We find it EMPTY!

Finding Jesus’ tomb empty can leave you feeling a wide variety of emotions. When your conscience condemns you because of your sins, knowing Jesus’ tomb is empty makes you feel \_\_\_\_\_! When you are bothered by the thought of dying and being placed in the ground, knowing Jesus’ tomb is empty gives you a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_! When you know that someday you will meet your Maker, knowing Jesus’ tomb is empty makes you feel \_\_\_\_\_!

Did you fill in those blanks with words such as *at peace, comforted, content, reassured, overjoyed, jubilant, relieved?* To be honest, finding Jesus’ tomb empty brings to me all of the above! May Jesus’ empty tomb fill your heart with the same!

Enjoy finding your Savior’s tomb EMPTY this Easter!



The Fox River starts in Wisconsin, home of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and travels south passing through the quiet, quaint town of St. Charles, Illinois, home to the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. The Chicago Area Circuit invites all those with a heart for missions to flow like a river to the Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles on June 23 to 26, 2016, as we join together to praise and honor "Christ Alone, Our Cornerstone."

A convention is a thousand voices raised in song at worship services. A convention is learning what God is doing through missionaries with our support. A convention is rejoicing as we celebrate the foundation of our faith

Enjoy many sights on the way to and from the convention – Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, Starved Rock State Park, Brookfield Zoo, Farnsworth House, Cantigny, Morton Arboretum, Fermilab, Lincoln Park Zoo, Shedd Aquarium, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Field Museum.

Conveniently located in peaceful St. Charles, Illinois, the 250-acre Pheasant Run country property is one of the largest entertainment, conference, and family vacation resorts in the Midwest forming a small community with indoor and outdoor swimming pools, 18 holes of golf, tennis, volleyball, sauna, spa, live theater, a comedy club, diverse dining options, and free parking. St. Charles is close to Chicago (40 miles west) but retains all the charm of a small town.

Two bus tours will be offered. One features highlights in the city of Chicago and one features attractions near St. Charles. A Metra train station, located in the nearby town of Geneva (five miles from Pheasant Run), is an alternate means of transportation to Chicago for those wanting a self-guided tour of the city.

Flow like a river or fly like the wind to the LWMS convention in St. Charles, Illinois, in June. The Chicago Area Circuit eagerly awaits your arrival. There is a bus from New Ulm going through the area on its way to the convention where interested people can get a ride. Pastor Neumann has more information on that. If anyone is interested in attending the convention there is more information on the LWMS website ([www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org)) or contact Linda Jessie. Early registration is the best.

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The LWMS Mission Box Money is due in March. Please send it to Linda Jessie by March 20. If writing a check, please make it out to LWMS Scenic Coulee Circuit. This money goes for ongoing mission projects of the LWMS.

*If you have any questions, please contact our church's reporter, Linda Jessie, or log onto the LWMS web site at [www.lwms.org](http://www.lwms.org) for more information.*



**Attention members of Faith:**

We have created a Facebook group to increase our online presence.

Please feel free to join, share and invite your friends, family, neighbors, etc to the group!

**<https://facebook.com/groups/FaithEvLutheranChurch/>**

While we do have a Facebook page as well, the reach isn't as great when we post to it. By having a Facebook group we should be able to have more posts show up in your newsfeeds as well as in your friends' newsfeeds that aren't in the group but will hopefully encourage them to join in on the fun!



## Help Wanted

### Roman Soldiers to guard tomb of the Living Savior

*Seasonal Part-time! No experience necessary! All shifts needed!*

Bible-based church is seeking members willing to spend 3 hours of their time during the Triduum (Latin for 3 days) of Holy Week in God’s great outdoors.

Stylish uniforms will be provided.

Compensation is fellowship with other church members, snacks, a “movie star-like” personification, and other blessings that come with sharing your Savior!

Taking of a traditional Roman name is optional.

(e.g. Maximus or Flavia – have some fun – do a Google search)

Equal opportunity employment - all ages and genders are welcome.

Successful applicants will be motivated by God’s undeserved love and simply sign up on the Living Tomb Shift Sign-up Sheet in the gathering area in each of our worship locations.

Sign-up early for the “best” shifts ☺!

*We could also use help with set-up and take down of the tomb:*

*Tomb set-up will be Saturday, March 19 at 9 a.m.*

*Tomb take-down will be Sunday, April 3 at 2 p.m.*

### MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

On January 19, Kedric Knas joined our congregation and fellowship by profession of faith.

Kedric lives in Osseo with his wife Kathy, to whom he has been married for 47 years. They have one daughter and two sons.

In his wisdom, and for reasons our Lord alone knows, God has allowed Ric to be afflicted with a rare form of Parkinson’s disease. This disease has caused brain cell degeneration as well as a loss of motor skills. As a result, Ric is homebound.

Before being diagnosed with Parkinson’s, Ric enjoyed being outdoors. He grew up on a farm in Waukesha where he was born on March 17, 1945. He was baptized at Grace Lutheran Church (WELS) and attended the Lutheran elementary school there. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and worked many years in construction. Today, he enjoys putting puzzles together and following the Packers.

We thank God for bringing Ric into our midst and pray that we are a blessing to him as he is a blessing to us.



### Easter Lilies (BRF)

Easter Lilies are available for you to order and then take home after our service on Easter morning. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the gathering area.

The lilies will be purchased at a special rate of \$12 for one stem and \$24 for two stems. Checks can be made out to Faith Lutheran Church and given to Kari Kellen by March 20<sup>th</sup>.



### Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include home devotion and community concert ideas.

Our meeting will take place Sunday, March 20, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.



## Voters' Meeting Minutes (Summary)

January 31, 2016 - Cataract, WI

The meeting opened at 1:33 p.m. Pastor Neumann reported that the only membership change in the fourth quarter was the death of Mahlon Boisen on October 4, 2015.

Emily Jessie	3/5
Linda Jessie	3/11
Bryan Leisso	3/14
Dave Spaude	3/21
Dawn Manske	3/21
Carolyn Diener	3/21
Chase Manske	3/21
Amber Hanson	3/21
Kevin Keisow	3/22
Charlie Severson	3/23
Karin Jandt	3/27
Zach Markhardt	3/30

Brad Markhardt presented a large list of Outreach activities from 2015. The expenses for the Outreach committee in 2015 were \$1,002 and they are proposing an expense forecast for 2016 of \$1,000. He also presented a list of projected 2016 activities, including looking into radio broadcast/internet streaming of services, another devotion activity, starting a youth group, sending youth and chaperones to WELS International Youth Rally in June. He also presented an updated Vision Timeline.

Dave Kellen updated the congregation that a new counter, with built-in cabinet storage underneath, was approved and installed in the Cataract building.

Cody Heller updated the congregation on the Faith Alive CIF Pledge drive. The updated total pledged by the members of the congregation ended up being \$226,276.00 (which was \$1,276 above our goal of \$225,000.00).

It was moved, supported, and passed to create an Elder's committee.

Cody Heller presented the projected Profit and Loss Budget Overview for 2016. He is projecting a net income of -\$3,077.05 in 2016.

It was moved, supported and passed to set aside \$15,000 for our Congregational Mission Offering.

### Easter Invitations

There will be postcard-size invitations available for the Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. You can use these as a resource when inviting family and friends to our Easter services.

Invitations will be in the gathering area at both worship locations.

Council Election took place. Cody Heller and Jake Dahlke's three-year terms are up. Cody Heller accepted his nomination for another term, but Jake Dahlke declined at this time. Cody Heller and Dale Jessie were nominated by the Council and no other members were nominated by the congregation. Cody Heller and Dale Jessie were elected by unanimous vote.





## Does God Deserve Our Time

Because my extended family has grown over the years, we have gotten into the habit of exchanging names at Christmas. Last year, one of my sisters drew my name. It wasn't long after that she e-mailed and asked me what I would like. My response to her was simple: time.

Time is a valuable commodity, isn't it? We would like more time to get our work done; more time to spend with our family; more time to sleep; more time to do those activities we enjoy but never have time to do. But I wonder, how many of us would include wanting to spend more time with God on that list? Isn't it true that when we think about all the things we want to do and want to get done, most often it doesn't involve spending time with God? So that got me to thinking, does God deserve our time?

You know the answer to that question. Even so, let me share with you the Bible's answers. ***"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16). "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life" (John 5:24). "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship...Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts" (Acts 2:42,46). "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'" (Psalm 122:1). "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:31).***

The answer is a resounding "YES!" I suppose the natural follow-up question is then: why don't we spend more time with him? Could you imagine if God was that stingy in spending his time on us?

But of course, God isn't stingy in spending time on us. Already before creation he was spending time on us as he chose us as his own. He spent time on us as he created a wonderful world for us to live in. He spent time on us as he guided and ruled history in just the right way so his Son our Savior could be born. He spent time on us as he lived some 30 plus years perfectly keeping the law for us. He spent time on us as he hung in excruciating pain on the cross as payment for our sins. He spent time on us as he took the wrath of the Father for us. He spent time on us winning our forgiveness and gaining our salvation.

That's not even all. He still takes time on us as he tells us he will be with us always, never leaving or forsaking us, working all things for the good of those who love him, and finally taking us to heaven through faith in Jesus as Savior. Yes, he spent time on us so that we could spend time with him. Why not take him up on that offer? Make a schedule for yourself each week as to when you will spend time with him each day. Adjust your schedule so you can be with him on Sunday. Start planning now how this month's Holy Week services can be the focal point of your week before Easter. When we understand that in public worship and private devotions it is him coming to serve us, do we really want to say, I don't want to spend time with you today, Lord?

God bless your time spent with him!



## SPECIAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN MARCH

**Midweek Lenten Services** Continue on Wednesdays - March 2, 9, 16

4:30 Worship (CAT)

5:30 Simple Suppers (CAT & BRF)

6:30 Worship (BRF)

**Maundy Thursday** – March 24

4:30 pm Worship (Cataract)

6:30 pm Worship (Black River Falls)

**Good Friday** – March 25

4:30 pm Service of the Cross (Cataract)

6:30 pm Tenebrae Service (Black River Falls)



**Daylight  
Saving  
Time  
Begins**

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget to Spring Forward one hour.



The youth group will have their first activity on **Friday, March 18**. We will head to one of the nearby theaters and watch the newly released movie *Risen*. Time and place is still yet to be determined, so watch the bulletins in March for more information. A sign-up sheet for youth who plan to attend can be found in the gathering area at both church locations. Please take a moment to sign up.

The youth group consists of all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, and those in high school. Parents of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, please note that the movie is rated PG-13, so please speak with Pastor if your child plans to go. For more information on the movie, you can go to [www.risen-movie.com](http://www.risen-movie.com).



**Black River Falls & Cataract, WI**

[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 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, March 19<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the April, 2016 newsletter.