



# FAITH

---

## EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2017  
Newsletter

### DEVOTIONS ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

When you hear the term, God's will, what is the first thing that comes into your mind? For many of us we would probably respond by saying the Ten Commandments? And surely they are part of God's will. However, when we speak of God's will in the Lord's Prayer it is better for us to speak of it in the framework of Jesus' words in John chapter 6: *"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. <sup>40</sup> For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."* (John 6:37-40) What is God's will? Clearly, what our loving heavenly Father wants is for everyone to believe in Jesus and be saved.

Unfortunately, not everyone wants what God wants. Each day the devil takes his best shot at us, trying to damage our faith and oppose God's will. Partnering with him is the sinful world in which we live. Like the poison set out to eliminate mice, so the world puts its tasty morsels before us to thin out and even kill off our faith. And then inside each and every one of us is the enemy we can never get away from – our sinful nature.

Because of this how often we must say what a hard petition this is for us to pray! It is our own will that we would much rather see carried out, vainly imagining that what we want is best. It is God's will that we put everyone else first and ourselves last as the servant of all. But it is our will that we be first and served by all. It is God's will that we see our salvation as entirely God's gift. It is our will that we should get at least some of the credit for it because we're "not as bad" as some others we could mention. It is God's will that we submit even gladly to the sorrows of this life and accept them as sorrows that he has allowed either to bring us to repentance or to bring us to see that in having him and his Word we have everything we need and more. But our will complains and calls God unjust when others prosper at our expense, even when others are merely more successful than we think they deserve to be. When we suffer, our first thought is not that God's will is always best; our first thought is that it just isn't fair that we should endure this and that when so many others seem to get away with every evil word and deed that suits them.

So we pray, "hear our cry, dear Father, and grant that your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We pray that his will may win the happy victory over our will. We pray that he would enlighten our understanding by an ever greater knowledge and understanding of his Word, so that we may consciously strive all the more to bring our will into harmony with the will he has revealed to us in his Word. Our prayer is that he move us by his love and grace to ask again and again not "What's in it for me?", but rather how can my words and works, my plans and ambitions better serve those around me and so reflect the fact that you are my Father and I am your child, eager to do what pleases you? For then your will will be done in me and through me."

---

## **SPRING CLEANING**

### **LANDSCAPE BRIGADE**

Our building and grounds give glory to God. There is plenty of landscape maintenance to be done around out BRF building site: pruning, mulching, fertilizing, weeding and other general landscaping. Consider helping by being a part of the "landscape brigade." We will meet the second Saturday of each month, April through October, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you would like to. Our next brigade event will take place on Saturday, May 13.

### **SPRING CLEAN-UP AT BLACK RIVER FALLS**

**When:** Saturday May 6 -- 8 a.m.

**What:** Cleaning of inside and out, including utilizing an electric scissor lift and scaffolding to clean and change light fixtures

### **SPRING CLEAN-UP AT CATARACT**

**When:** Saturday May 20 – 9 a.m.

**What:** Cleaning of inside and out

**Other:** A potluck at 12 p.m. is planned after the cleaning is done – Bring a dish to pass!

### **BIBLE CLASSES & SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday morning Bible Class and Sunday School in Black River Falls will meet May 7, 14, and 21. The last Sunday for Bible Class in Cataract is May 21.

### **ONE NIGHT MOVIE EVENT**

A one-time showing of *A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy* hosted by Christ Lutheran Church (WELS), West Salem and St. John's Lutheran Church (WELS), Sparta at the Sparta Cinema on 6 June 8, 2017 at 6:30 pm. This new film follows the great adventure of Luther's life, packed with political intrigue, kidnappings, secret hideouts, and life-or-death showdowns. At the same time, it's a story about the most important questions of life. Who am I? What is my purpose? How do I get right with God? A must-see for any Lutheran and a chance to share the message of your Lutheran heritage with others. Invite your friends and neighbors!

**IMPORTANT:** All tickets must be purchased in advance. Tickets are \$10. Tickets can be purchased at a special website set up for the screening: <http://sparta.NewLutherMovie.com>

### **CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS TO...**

Mackenzie Bedell; Chase Manske; Chase Severson; and Jeremiah Spaude who will be confirmed in their Christian faith on Sunday, May 7.

### **Birthdays**



Mark Mueller	5-10
Ryanne Nicolai	5-16
Chase Severson	5-16
Grady Severson	5-16
Mitchell Volk	5-20
Aspen Bue	5-22
Macy Johnson	5-23



### **Anniversaries**

Ken and Janeen Folgers	5/01
Matt and Toni Anderson	5/20
Jerry and Jan Eggen	5/20

---

## **WELS NIGHT AT THE LOGGERS BASEBALL GAME**

Here are details for the 2<sup>nd</sup> “WELS NIGHT AT THE LOGGERS” baseball game. This year’s date is Sunday, June 25, 2017 and the Loggers will be taking on the Bismarck Larks. The gates open at 4:00 p.m. at Copeland Park in La Crosse, WI for a 5:05 p.m. game time. Ticket price is \$7.00 for a bleacher back seat. Friends of Luther will receive back \$3.50 for each ticket sold through this fundraiser.

To purchase a ticket, mail a check, made out to “La Crosse Loggers”, to: Carla Korthals; 4250 Cty Hwy BC; Sparta, WI 54656. If you wish to sit together as a group, please send your request in one envelope. Tickets will be given on a first received, first served basis, and the first 200 are guaranteed to sit in the same section. Ticket requests, with payment, must be to Carla by Saturday, June 10, 2017. Tickets purchased after this June 10, 2017 date must be made directly through the Loggers and will not be eligible for the fundraiser.

There will be 2 random drawings for those who wish to participate. The first drawing will give a ticket holder the opportunity to throw out the first pitch. The second will be for a child to have the opportunity to let the players & crowd know it is time to “PLAY BALL!!” When purchasing tickets, please give Carla the names of those who want to be in each drawing. Please include a phone number where they (or their parent) can be reached.

At each home game, the La Crosse Loggers choose a Veteran to raise the American flag and be recognized. We are able to have one of our group have this honor. If your congregation would like to nominate someone, please send that request to Carla Korthals at the address above.

If any ticket holders wish to participate in the ‘goofy games for prizes’ that the Loggers have between innings, they may sign up at the customer service area inside the park. Concessions are available at the park for purchase.

If you have any questions, feel free to call my (Carla’s) home phone at 608-269-1675. Leave a message and I will get back to you.

\*\*\*\*\*



**WELS NIGHT**  
**AT MILLER PARK**  
**THURSDAY, AUG 10 | 7:10PM**

**T** vs. **M**

**UP TO 50% OFF SELECT TICKETS**

FIELD OUTFIELD BOX: \$21    LOGE OUTFIELD BOX: \$17    TERRACE RESERVED: \$0

Mark your calendars and plan to join thousands of WELS members for the fourth annual WELS Night at Miller Park! Seating will be together for WELS members in all three seating areas.

**TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT [BREWERS.COM/WELS](http://BREWERS.COM/WELS)**

*Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

*Psalm 27:14*

Greetings from the warm heart of Africa,

Is patience one of your virtues? Maybe you're like me and patience is on your list of areas in need of improvement. Waiting in line (or queue as we say here) is a part of life in Malawi, just like it is everywhere else. I have noticed during the last four months, though, that some of the waiting is different than everywhere else I have ever lived and traveled.

Never before have I waited a month to find yogurt or mozzarella cheese in the grocery store. Never before have I traveled to church wondering if there will be power so that we'll have lights and piano accompaniment to our singing. Never before have I waited in gridlock city traffic because a young boy was having trouble keeping his goat herd to the side of the road.

While waiting of this sort can be comical once you get past the inconveniences, there is a lot of waiting in life that is anything but comical. Maybe you are waiting for a doctor's report. Maybe you're waiting for a better job opportunity or a relationship to improve. Here in Malawi, many people are waiting for the maize harvest and the temporary end of hungry season. Waiting. Waiting. Waiting.

There is a reason why we are told in the Psalm to be strong and wait. Losing patience and giving up is easy. Waiting for the Lord's guidance, intervention and healing takes strength. Rushing into action just for the sake of action is easy. Waiting to understand the situation and select the best course of action takes strength. Bickering is easy. Waiting to speak calmly and respectfully takes strength.

As Easter approaches, I like to remember John's account at the tomb of Jesus. Mary Magdalene stood weeping while she waited and didn't realize that Jesus was alive and right there with her. Until He called her by name, she had no idea just how near He was. Isn't that often the case with us? When we are tired of waiting for difficulties to improve, how often do we forget that Jesus has said He is always with us (Matthew 28:20)? In the midst of our trials and sufferings, do we echo Job and confess "I know that my Redeemer lives" (Job 19:25)? Why do we so easily forget that Jesus loves us every day the same and even calls us by our name (CW 432)?

Waiting for the Lord's timing and for His plan is challenging, but it's also for our good. Through the waiting, He draws us nearer to Himself, teaches us to trust Him, and reminds us that He alone is in control. We can take heart, because our waiting, no matter how difficult, is not in vain and the Lord Himself is right there with us providing the strength we need to carry on.

The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Happy Easter!

Your sister in Christ,

Amanda Artz, Clinic Administrator  
Lutheran Mobile Clinic, Malawi

\*\*\*\*\*

**AFRICA CALLING:**

Do you or someone you know have an interest in serving in World Missions as a Nurse-in-Charge? The Central Africa Medical Mission is hiring for our Nurse-in-Charge position at the Lutheran Mobile Clinic (Malawi). This is a 3 year term of service and must be an RN with at least one year of clinic or hospital experience. The nurse-in-charge supervises clinic staff and maintains all clinic functions. Preferred applicants are single females due to living arrangements. The term of service will begin in January 2018.

All applicants must be in good standing within WELS or ELS membership.

An application may be obtained by contacting Beth Evans ([evans.bc57@yahoo.com](mailto:evans.bc57@yahoo.com)) or Linda Liesener ([cammcontact@charter.net](mailto:cammcontact@charter.net))

*Note from the Editor:*

*As Christians, we struggle daily with temptations of this world. By keeping Christ at the center of our hearts and lives, we can dismiss the temptations of this world and remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ. Sometimes reminders are needed as to why we believe and worship the way we do. This series of articles from the website, [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net), will explain why we believe what we believe and why we teach what we teach. Below are the 7th and 8th of 29 articles in this series. Please take some time to read the bible verses associated with each article to further your understanding.*

## **What the Bible and Lutherans Teach**

### **7. REDEMPTION**

The Bible and Lutherans teach that Jesus, who is both God and man, humbled himself by becoming a man and dying on the cross. He did this to redeem all people from the judgment for sin, the fear of death, and the power of the devil. He fulfilled the law perfectly and took on himself the guilt of all our sins. He ransomed us by the sacrifice of his life on the cross. God has looked on Jesus' death as our death for sin. The resurrection of Jesus is proof that God has accepted what Jesus did as payment for the sins of all people.

[Matthew 5:17](#); [Romans 5:19](#); [Isaiah 53:6](#); [Matthew 20:28](#); [2 Corinthians 5:21](#); [Ephesians 1:7](#); [2 Timothy 1:10](#)

### **8. JUSTIFICATION**

The Bible and Lutherans teach that God judged all sinners righteous in his sight when Jesus Christ died on the cross for us. God declared everyone free from the guilt and punishment owed for our sins. The sinner receives this free gift of forgiveness, not by doing good deeds, but only by faith. A person is justified when he or she believes in Christ and his redemptive work. It is a gift from God.

[Ephesians 2:8,9](#); [2 Corinthians 5:19](#); [Romans 3:22-24](#); [Romans 3:28](#); [Romans 4:5](#); [Mark 16:16](#)

*Source: [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)*

### **ASCENSION WORSHIP**

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD.'" (Psalm 122:1). May the spirit of the Psalmist be our spirit as we consider the opportunity to gather in God's house for Ascension worship.

That service will be Thursday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. in Cataract.

### **NEWSLETTER INFORMATION**

If you have information to be included in the monthly newsletters, please send it to [janeen.folgersx@gmail.com](mailto:janeen.folgersx@gmail.com) by the second to the last Sunday of the month.