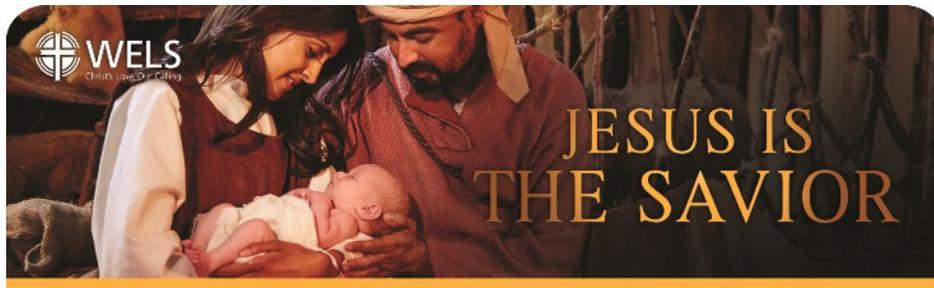


The Messenger

Rooted in Christ.  *Reaching Out With The Word.*

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church

MAY 2016



Jesus is the Ascended Savior

Jesus was taken up into heaven. - Luke 24:51

Mary, the mother of Jesus, received the angel's announcement that her son would be the Son of God and the King of God's people (Luke 1: 32). What amazement must have filled her heart! Yet Simeon's prophecy would also come true, that a sword would pierce Mary's heart. What agony must have filled her spirit as she gazed on her son being tortured to death! But then came his glorious resurrection, proving that he is the eternal Son of God and that he fully accomplished his heavenly Father's plan of salvation for the world.

The risen Lord Jesus appeared to many people proving that he was alive. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus returned to heaven. His ascension is celebrated in the Christian church on the fortieth day after Easter. This year *Ascension Day* falls on May 5th.

While churches may or may not have a special worship service on the actual day that Jesus' ascension is observed every year, Christians always glorify our living, ascended Savior. We lift up our voices in praise of Jesus who was lifted up to the highest honor of heaven. Our hearts are filled with the excitement of Jesus' ascension as the Bible relates in Philippians 2:9-11:

God exalted [Christ Jesus] to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Having fully accomplished the work of salvation, Jesus returned to heaven and now reigns in the highest position of all authority. And he proclaimed, "I will come back" (John 14:3). Eventually, everyone will know the truth that Jesus is the eternal Son of God who came to be the world's Savior. His return will be the most fearful time for those who rejected Jesus in unbelief. They will be sent away to eternal punishment in hell.

The Lord Jesus, however, wants people to have life with him forever in heaven. So before he ascended into heaven, he commanded that the good news of the salvation he won by his death and resurrection be proclaimed to everyone.

That good news is for you too! Jesus is your Savior. One day, perhaps soon, he will return from heaven. How will you meet him? By trusting in Jesus who rescued you from eternal death, you can join the people who will be rejoicing to see Jesus in all of his glory. At his return, he will take all believers to the place he prepared for them in heaven. What an awesome ascension day that will be!

‘My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’ (John 14:23)

In This Christian Church The Holy Spirit Daily and Fully Forgives Sins

From the moment we are born into this world, we are compared to others by length and weight. We are compared, and we compare ourselves to others throughout our years of schooling and into our years of adulthood. Time and again, we see birds of a feather flocking together. At times we find ourselves inside those groupings, and at other times, we find ourselves stuck on the outside.

But when we come to church, we find a different truth at work. The church is the one place where everyone truly belongs. And in this Christian church the Holy spirit “daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers” (Luther’s Small Catechism). That’s good news, and it’s exactly what we need. In our daily fight to be what God has made us, we need to hear the law thunder, “If you go your own way, watch out, because judgment is coming. You will be compared to God’s standard of perfection, and you will be found wanting.” And we need to hear, we long to hear, the message of forgiveness in Christ, which assures us that even though we do have sins, the Holy Spirit does not allow them to harm us. How beautiful is this new song that the Holy Spirit teaches us to sing: “Christ has full atonement made and brought to us salvation” (CW 390:5).

The God who so loves the world, our Father in heaven, has shown his love, even to us, by sending his Son to save the world and us from sin and all its horrid results. The very Jesus who came and accomplished that work of salvation and his life, death, and resurrection is the very same Jesus who now comes to us through his Work and sacraments and dwells with us! He even dwells within us, here in this Christian church, forgiving, strengthening, protecting, upholding, guiding and encouraging by his Holy Spirit.

This gospel of forgiveness in Christ fills us with such gladness and causes us to become “strong in faith and in its fruits which the Holy Spirit produces in us” (Luther’s Large Catechism). As you go about your daily tasks today and tomorrow, see yourself and look upon others as God sees you in Christ; washed, cleansed, forgiven.

Prayer: *Your grace alone, dear Lord I plead; your death is now my life indeed, for you have paid my ransom. Amen (CW 390:5)*

Meditations: NPH - May 2, 2016
Salvation unto us has come: Through the work of the promised Holy Spirit



Reach Your Community Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include a home devotion project and Faith Family Fun Nights.

Our meeting will take place Sunday, May 15, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.

Please speak with Brad Markhardt if you have any questions.

Mark Mueller	5/10
Ryanne Nicolai	5/16
Chase Severson	5/16
Grady Severson	5/16
Aspen Bue	5/22
Macy Johnson	5/23

A graphic for birthday wishes. It features a white birthday cake with five lit candles on top. The words "BIRTHDAY WISHES TO..." are written on the cake. The entire graphic is enclosed in a rounded rectangular border with small decorative triangles around it.



BIBLE CLASSES & SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last Sunday for Sunday morning Bible Class and Sunday School in BRF is May 1. Wednesday evening Bible Class will continue from May 4 – May 25.

The last Sunday for Sunday Bible Class in CAT is May 22.



Celebrating their Anniversary

May 1st

Ken & Janeen Folgers

May 20th

Matt & Toni Anderson
Jerry & Jan Eggen



SPRING CLEANING AT FAITH IN CATARACT

When: Saturday May 21 – 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

OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST A MEMBER IN MISSION WORK

WELS Kingdom Workers is a mission organization affiliated with the WELS that sends workers to various areas of the country to do mission work. One of our members, Aspen Bue (who is currently in his second year at Martin Luther College) is hoping to do summer ministry assistance in Ohio through WELS Kingdom Workers. In order to do this he needs gather together \$1,400 to supplement the financial support WELS Kingdom Workers is providing for him. WELS Kingdom Workers has made it possible for anyone to help support him by setting up a donation site online.

If you are inclined to support Aspen in this way, go to this website:

<https://kingdomworkers.myetap.org/fundraiser/SMA2016/donate.do>

You can also access this link on our website – www.faihwels.com. Go to the Faith in Action tab at the top of the page and click on the WELS Kingdom Worker page.

MLC WIND SYMPHONY

Join the Martin Luther College Wind Symphony on Tuesday, May 17 at 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in West Salem as it presents its spring tour concert. The MLC Wind Symphony, under the direction of Prof. Miles Wurster, is an instrumental ensemble of approximately 65 musicians representing all areas of study at MLC including music, pre-seminary studies and early, elementary and secondary education. The Wind Symphony performs standard, contemporary and sacred wind band literature in four concerts each academic year, touring annually.



On Sunday, April 24th, we welcomed and received into membership Kirk & Laura Goetzka and Jessica Moore.

We give thanks to the Lord for the faith he has worked in them, for bringing them to us, and ask God to make us a blessing to them as they become a blessing to us.

*FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY
APRIL 18, 2016*

Attendance: Pastor Joel Neumann, Scott Templeton, Brad Rahmlow, Mark Mueller

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Pastor led us in a devotion based on Psalm 8.
- B. The minutes from March's meeting were approved.
- C. Pastor's report-
 - 1. We will have a Mission Festival on October 16, 2016.
 - 2. Pastor gave an update on the conference from the beginning of April. One thing mentioned was that Pastor Prahl will be stepping down as District President after 23 years of service in this position.
- D. Special Reports-
 - 1. Pastor reported for the Elders Committee that we received into membership Robert Matthew Granahan by profession of faith on April 3, 2016.
- E. Financial Report-
 - 1. March 31, 2016 Financial Report was submitted by Cody Heller and presented by Scott Templeton showing a net income of \$3,112.91 for the month.
- F. Old Business-
 - 1. Christian Education Funding was discussed as Scott laid out the history of our congregation's funding of primary and secondary education.
- G. New Business-
 - a. Aspen Bue is hoping to do ministry assistant work in Columbus, Ohio this summer through WELS Kingdom Workers. We will include Aspen and his work in future bulletins in case anyone would like to support his ministry endeavor with donations to WELS Kingdom Workers.
 - b. A Joint Worship Potluck-Service will be held at 10:00am on July 17, 2016 in BRF. Potluck will to be provided by Ladies of Faith and Church Council.
 - c. Pews and Chairs were discussed in regards to replacing the chairs on the wings of the church.
- H. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm by Scott Templeton.

The next Congregational Meeting will be held on April 24th 1:00pm at Black River Falls.

The next Church Council Meeting will be held on May 16th at 6:30pm at Cataract.



YOUTH GROUP



The youth group will meet for another night of Bible Class and games on Friday, May 20th, at 6:30 p.m.



ASCENSION WORSHIP

We start making plans for Christmas a month or more in advance. We celebrate Easter with worship, family, and friends. But what about Jesus' ascension?

Plan to celebrate this, too, by gathering together for worship in Black River Falls on . . .

**Thursday, May 5
at 6:30 p.m.**

From the Pastor

JESUS IS OUR HEAVENLY ADVOCATE

During the month of May, we have the privilege of celebrating the Festival of Ascension. Unfortunately, this day is perhaps the most forgotten day of the church year. How about we change that!

Coming forty days after Easter, Ascension commemorates the fulfillment of Jesus' word that he would return to the Father. Yet, even though he has ascended, he does not forget us nor abandon us. We see that in these words:

³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. (NIV2011)

An advocate is an intercessor, one who handles our case in court. We commonly call him a lawyer.

These words remind us that Jesus, our ascended Lord, is now our heavenly Advocate. He pleads our cause before the throne of the heavenly Father. Oh, how much we need his intercession! Our many sins make us guilty before God. Satan finds much evidence for his accusations against us, and our conscience supports these accusations. We deserve to be condemned.

But who shall condemn us, since we have Christ to intercede for us in God's court? When we sin, he pleads that we may be forgiven. And his plea is effective for he bases it on his death and resurrection. His death was the full payment for our sins. His resurrection was God's own declaration of forgiveness for our sins. Therefore, the Father hears the pleas of his Son in our behalf, so that we are not condemned.

Let us remember, too, that Jesus is our merciful high priest in heaven. In compassion for our deepest need, he once offered himself as the sacrifice to reconcile us to God. He still has a heart for all our needs. He understands our weakness, our impatience, our fears, and problems. On earth he knew sorrow in his soul, poverty, and the scorn of men. He met Satan's temptations. He experienced suffering. He also understood the needs of his brothers. How gently he dealt with Peter; how quickly he went to Zacchaeus' house to reveal himself as the Savior who forgives!

When we reflect on our lives, as St. Paul does here, we cannot help but see our unworthiness and cry out: "I am the chief of sinners." But we comfort ourselves with the joyous truth that Jesus, our Advocate and high priest, intercedes for us and pleads for our forgiveness. He can save completely those that look to him. What joyous consequences Jesus' ascension has for us!



MAY

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
Pastor Joel Neumann - (715) 284-0772

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.
May 21st is the deadline for the June, 2016 newsletter.