



FAITH

EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

**November
2017
Newsletter**

DEVOTION

*Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of
our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:20)*

What is the first thing you think about when November rolls around? I suppose some might think of cold weather; others of hunting; and still others of how close Christmas is. But one thing I think many think of is Thanksgiving. It's a shame, though, that we wait until November to think of thanksgiving. After all, Paul reminds us we are to always be giving thanks.

But isn't Paul going a bit far when he encourages the Ephesian Christians – and us as well – to give thanks to God “always”? How can anyone *always* be thankful? Thankful for loss of job? Thankful for crop failure? Thankful for the accident that happened on the way to work?

“Yes,” Paul adds emphatically, “for everything.” Everything? Even for that chronic illness which hinders my ability to do so many things, which is a burden to others, which I ask God frequently and fervently to take away? “Yes, for that too,” is Paul's reply.

“But what did I ever do to deserve having all these things go against me.” Paul reminds us that he also “was given a thorn in the flesh” (2 Cor. 12:7). He pleaded with the Lord to take it away. The Lord answered Paul's prayer by showing him that in human weakness God's power would prevail. God's grace was sufficient for all things. To realize that truth was more important than anything else. It brought Paul closer to God than ever before.

That is why Paul reminds us here that “God the Father,” is the source of every good and perfect gift. We are to thank him “in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,” who became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.

We sinners deserve nothing. Because of our many sins a just God has every right to banish us forever from his holy presence. But this same God in his love took pity on us and gave his only Son as a sacrifice for our sins so that we might live with him forever in heaven.

Knowing this, we also “know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:28) and that nothing “in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38,39). No, not even those things that seem to be great misfortunes. We can always give thanks to God for everything!

So we see how the wise Christian is, above all, the thankful Christian. May the Spirit of thankfulness be the attitude that fills your heart not only this month, but always.

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Consider What Great Things He Has Done!

That is the theme of our Thanksgiving service this year. That service will be held at our Black River Falls location on November 22nd, at 6:30 p.m. Following the service we will have a pie and ice cream social. Mark the date on your calendar and bring your family!

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

October 16, 2017

OPENING DEVOTION

At 6:00 p.m. Pastor Neumann continued his Council Devotion Series on *Terms of the Bible*, tonight reviewing CHRIST.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor reviewed a statistical report for the month of September.

Pastor reviewed a statistical report for the 3rd Quarter.

Baptism-

Thomas Danielson-7/23/17

Jenny Goetzka-7/23/17

Non-member Baptism-

Elizabeth Rose Jones-7/1/17

Zachary Morgan-7/30/17

Profession of Faith/Confirmation-

Chad and Jenny Goetzka (Thomas, Owen)-7/23/17

Tim Loftus-9/5/17

Transfer Out

Ron and Karen Baerbock-9/18/17 (to Bethel, Arcadia)

Worship

Stewardship Sunday (November 5th)-Will ask people to sign up for Bible Class (offered 4 different times).

Festival of Friendship-November 12th

Deer Hunter's Service-Thursday, November 16th-6:30pm (BRF).

Special Donation to Member in need in the amount of \$300-MS-Please see Pastor or an Elder if you would like to contribute more or need additional information.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Cody presented a financial report showing a net loss of \$6,235.79 through the end of September. MSC to accept financial report for October, 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

The Church council began considering name for Council elections

Place and time of January voters meeting-January 28th at BRF (1:00pm)

Adjournment-The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

The next Church Council meeting will be at BRF at 6:00 p.m. on November 20th.

The next Congregational meeting will be at Cataract at 12:15pm on October 22nd.

Recorded By Brad Rahmlow



November Anniversaries

Brad / Annette Markhardt	11/16
Jerry and Nancy Kirchman	11/26
Les + Wendy Mlsna	11/28

November Birthdays

Makaela Kiesow	11-08
Laurie Goetzka	11-09
Todd Volk	11-10
Wyatt Folgers	11-15
Hilarie Hertz	11-15
Kayla Manahan	11-19
Nicole Schwartzenberger	11-24
Scott Templeton	11-28
Beverly Zillmer	11-30
Mark Hanson	11-30

STEWARDSHIP BIBLE CLASS

No doubt you have seen the topic of Stewardship described like this before: “It is what we do with God’s gifts to us.” Because God has so richly blessed us and because we still have a sinful nature that desires to direct how we use God’s gifts, it is always a blessing to hear what God has to say to us concerning stewardship. We have that opportunity at a special New Steps of Faith stewardship Bible Class.

The church council is asking that every communicant member do everything they can to attend this one time Bible Study. For that reason, it is being offered four different times throughout the week. We ask that you sign-up for one of these times in the gathering area of church (if a time in Black River Falls doesn’t work, consider traveling to Cataract; and visa-versa). The times and places are:

- Sunday, November 5 – 11 a.m. in Cataract
- Monday, November 6 – 6 p.m. in Cataract
- Wednesday, November 8 – 7 p.m. in Black River Falls
- Saturday, November 11 – 1:30 p.m. in Black River Falls

NEWSLETTER HELP

Would you be interested in gathering, arranging, and putting the newsletter together each month? If so, please let Pastor Neumann know. We are looking for someone who might have the time, computer skills, and desire to help in this capacity. If it is something that interests you, but you’re not sure what it all involves, talk to Pastor.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

If you have information to include in the monthly newsletters, please send it to janeen.folgersx@gmail.com by the second to the last Sunday of the month.



DEER HUNTER WORSHIP SERVICE

Do you hunt? Wish you could sit in the stand AND worship with your fellow believers on Sunday morning? Well, here is a solution for you. We will have a special worship service on Thursday, November 17, at 6:30 p.m. at our BRF church building to remove the opening weekend/Sunday worship obstacle. God is to be first in our lives. Here is a chance to do just that and still enjoy the blessings of his creation at the same time.

SPARTA FOOD PANTRY

Faith in Cataract will be putting out a box for the Sparta Food Pantry again this year. During the month of November you can donate non-perishables to help those in need in the Sparta area. The box will be located under the coat rack in the entry area.



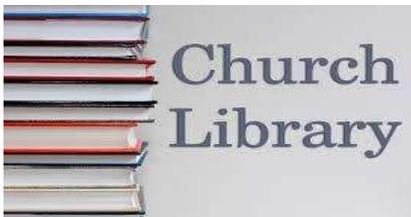
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE

Starting November 26, the children in Black River Falls will be practicing for the Christmas Eve service during the regular Sunday School/Bible Class hour. There will be no Bible Study during this time.

CARE PACKAGES

We will be collecting items for our college/military members from November 5th to November 19th. Each church will have a box for the items and we'll be filling five boxes. The boxes will be ready to be delivered by Thanksgiving.

What a wonderful opportunity for us to encourage one another and live a life of love!



From the Library

The People's Bible Teachings series is now complete. This is a series of books written especially for laypeople, covering the main doctrinal teachings of the Bible. Look for these books in our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at the BRF location.

- Angels and Demons - Baptism - Bible - Christ -
- Christian Freedom - Christian Worship - Church Fellowship
- Church-Mission-Ministry - Civil Government - Conversion - Creation
- End Times - God's Providence - Heaven and Hell - Holy Spirit
- Justification - Law and Gospel - Lord's Supper - Man -Marriage and
- Family - Prayer - Predestination - Sanctification - Stewardship - Trinity

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

To return, put the book/DVD/CD in the basket on the shelf and cross out your entry in the notebook.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful."

John 15: 1-2

Greetings from the warm heart of Africa,

Did you plant a garden this summer? If so, did it rain enough for your plants or did you have to water it yourself? Either way, I'm sure you spent at least a little time pulling weeds! We have gardens at the Lutheran Mobile Clinic (LMC) house, and the gardener works very diligently to keep the grounds. However, last month, he took some days of holiday leave, and in my spare time I became the gardener.

We are now in dry season and faithful watering is necessary to keep the gardens and plants alive. The hours I spent tending the grounds brought to mind the attention and care our Lord spends on us. As I watered and weeded, I thought about how the Lord provides what we need when we need it and also diligently works to prune out of our hearts and lives what He finds harmful to us or those around us.

Here in Malawi, just like everywhere else, there are many harmful activities, beliefs and practices. Recently a Malawian acquaintance mentioned to me that she was going to the funeral of a small boy who had died because he had been bewitched. I'm sure my eyebrows were raised quite high as I asked this Christian woman what the child really died from. She told me that actually the boy had broken his leg and it became infected. However, since he seemed to improve for a bit before he died, some people decided he had not actually died from infection, but because someone had put a curse on him.

Death by bewitching isn't something you'll likely hear talked about in the U.S.A., but the devil is still pretty successful there. Is it more common for you to hear the Lord's name used in praise and thanksgiving, or in cursing someone or something? Does your heart feel heavy with worry and concern over your future or for those you love? Have you ever hesitated or neglected to talk about Jesus even when God gave you the perfect opportunity?

Though it's not always enjoyable, we need God's shears on us every day of our lives no matter where we live, because the devil is relentless in his goal to choke our faith. We equally need the Living Water of God's Word to feed and strengthen our faith when we are having trouble seeing the loving Son-light of Jesus Christ. Our Father promises that His shears never miss or prune more than is healthy. "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands" (Isaiah 49:15-16).

Right on schedule, the LMC gardener returned from his holiday. He walked the grounds, inspected my work and, much to my delight, confirmed that nothing had died in my care. And my vegetable salad never tasted so good!

Your Sister in Christ,

Amanda Artz, Clinic Administrator
Lutheran Mobile Clinic, Malawi