

# The Messenger

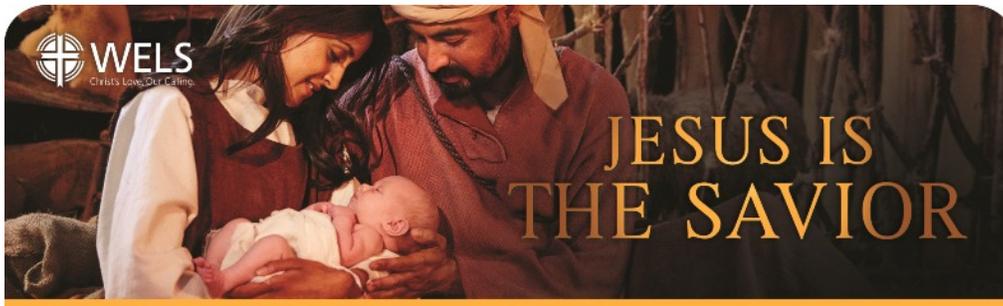
*Rooted in Christ.  Reaching Out With The Word.*

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

*October 2016*

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## **Jesus is My Savior from Myself**

**By grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. – Ephesians 2:8-9**

“I can do it all by myself!” If you have children, you have heard these words. You want them to learn how to do things on their own, but usually they pick times to try when it is least convenient for you. Walking out the door, already late is the time they want to tie their shoes for the first time.

Have you ever thought, “I can do it all by myself?” Doing a project at work by yourself may result in a raise or promotion. However, trying to get into heaven by yourself will never work.

Think about this question: “If you were standing outside of heaven’s gates and God asked you, ‘Why should I let you in?’ what would you say?” Well, how would you answer? “Oh, I was a good dad/mom.” “I was faithful at work.” “I never (fill in the blank).”

If you answered that way, can you hear it? It is the sound of silence; the sound of heaven’s gates NOT opening. God requires us to be perfect like him. That means that if we want to go to heaven we can never do any wrong...ever! The truth is that no matter how hard we try, no matter how much good we do, we will never be perfect. Even just one wrongdoing disqualifies us from heaven. Honestly, we commit many, many wrongs in life. So for the prospect of heaven, each of us has to admit, “I CAN’T do it by myself!”

But we don’t have to do it ourselves! God tells us in his Word that we have been saved BY GRACE! Though we are undeserving, God deeply loved us. He sent his Son, Jesus, to open the way to heaven for us. Jesus did this by sacrificing his innocent life in our place for all of our wrongdoing. Now, through Jesus we are perfectly right before God, all because we didn’t do it ourselves. Jesus did it for us!

Why should God let you into heaven? You can point to Jesus and say, “Because of him.” Jesus is the one who opens heaven.

Thank Jesus for this wonderful gift! He is your Savior who did it all for you!



## FALL RALLY

The Fall Rally of the LWMS Scenic Coulee Circuit will meet Sunday, October 23, 2016. The meeting will be held at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Burr Oak. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m. and the meeting will start at 2 p.m. The guest speaker is a Christian Doctor from Pakistan who can no longer return home due to persecution.

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.

## SPECIAL DOOR OFFERING

A special door offering will be collected at the end of our Mission Festival service on October 16 to support the work being done in East Asia.



## 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 Faith Alive 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, October 23 – 11 a.m. in Cataract
- Monday, October 24 – 6 p.m. in Cataract
- Wednesday, October 26 – 7 p.m. in Black River Falls
- Saturday, October 29 – 1:30 p.m. in Black River Falls



Nathan Mlsna	10/04
William Rahmlow	10/04
Dale Jessie	10/09
Gale Jessie	10/09
Nathan Jessie	10/09
Brook Anderson	10/12
Izzy Neumann	10/14
Erick Markhardt	10/23
Gary Johnson	10/23
Karen Noard	10/28



# COUNCIL MINUTES SUMMARY

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes September 19, 2016 Attendance: Pastor Joel Neumann, Scott Templeton, Mark Mueller, Brad Rahmlow, Todd Volk, Dave Kellen. A. Call to order-The meeting opened at 6:30p.m. with Pastor Neumann, Scott Templeton, Mark Mueller, Brad Rahmlow, Todd Volk and Dave Kellen in attendance.

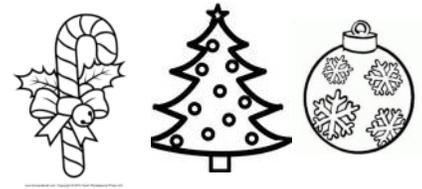
- I. Elder's report: Membership change-transfer out of Erin Peterson to St. Marcus, Milwaukee( motion; seconded; carried)
- II. Pastor's Report
  - a. Special Services upcoming
    - i. Mission Festival – Sunday, October 16 (only one service in BRF at 9:00 a.m.)
    - ii. Hunter's Service – Thursday, November 17
  - b. Outreach Committee
    - i. Festival of Friendship will be on November 13.
    - ii. Christmas Crafts for Kids on November 19th, 9-11am.
- III. Financial Report
  - a. Scott presented a financial report prepared by Cody Heller. The report listed net income of -\$5,514.92 as of August 31, 2016.
- IV. Old Business
  - a. Pastor's Salary and Benefits 2016-17 (motion; seconded to use synod recommendation for Pastor's salary and benefits as of August, 2017-carried)
- V. New Business
  - a. Ladies of Faith Request – the ladies made pillow cases for the Bolton Refuge House at an event earlier this year. They would like to purchase pillows to donate along with the pillow cases at an estimated cost of \$100 (motion, seconded; carried).



## The Youth Group will meet Tuesday, October 11, at 6:30 p.m. in B R F.

We will begin planning for our Youth Sunday and choose some dates for some of our activities. Last month none of the teens were able to make it, but Pastor did forget to send out his monthly e-mail reminder.

\* If Tuesdays do not work for you, please let Pastor Neumann know.



## CHRISTMAS CRAFTS FOR KIDS

Want to get an early jump on your Christmas shopping? Need a couple hours of relaxation while your husband is off hunting? Do your kids enjoy doing crafts?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then we've got you covered. Have your children join us at Faith Lutheran Church in Black River Falls on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 A.M. for our second annual Christmas Crafts for Kids.

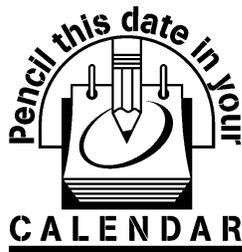
During this time, children will enjoy Christmas cookies and music while they rotate through several fun, Christmas-themed craft stations.

If you have any questions, or would like more information, please email or call Nicole Stelter [steltnic@hotmail.com](mailto:steltnic@hotmail.com) or 715 299-8520).

## Go Hunting With FiSH!

Invite your friends to a fun afternoon scavenger hunting on Saturday, October 15, in Black River Falls! Put together a team of 2-4 people, or come as a single and teams will be created. Church doors open at 1:00 pm to register teams, with the hunt starting at 1:30. Find as many of the objects on the list as you can around Black River Falls in 1½ hours. Treats will be served at 3:00 while the scores are tallied. Daycare will be provided.

FiSH is a social group geared toward recreational activities for adults, single or married, younger or older. For more information contact Nicole Stelter at 715-299-8520 or steltnic@hotmail.com.



### VOTERS' MEETING

The next scheduled Quarterly Congregational Meeting is set for October 23, at 1 p.m. in Black River Falls.

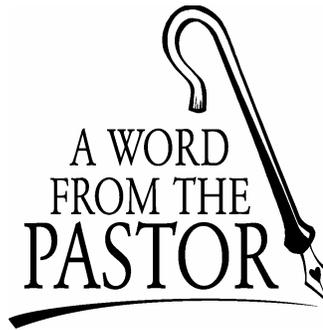
## MISSION FESTIVAL WORKER TRAINING IN EAST ASIA

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Professor James Korthals will serve as guest preacher and lead us in a Bible Class presentation on Worker Training in East Asia on October 16. Pastor Korthals has served WELS congregations in Michigan and Wisconsin, as well as teaching at Northwestern College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He has twice traveled to Hong Kong and China in order to teach students in the Seminary there.

This Festival Service will be held Sunday, October 16 in Black River Falls. Please note the service time change. There will be only one service that day at 9:00 a.m. in Black River Falls; the presentation will be at 10:15 to 11:15 a.m.



There will be a potluck lunch following the presentation. The church will be providing sliced ham sandwiches for the meal.



October 6<sup>th</sup>

Gale & Karen Jessie

October 9<sup>th</sup>

Bill & Karen Yahnke

October 12<sup>th</sup>

Benjamin & Jo Dee Leisso

October 15<sup>th</sup>

Kevin & Nicole Kiesow

October 21<sup>st</sup>

Denis & Candy Janke

## HOW IMPORTANT ARE YOU TO GOD?

Have you ever asked yourself that question – “How important am I to God?” I suppose some people might base their answer on how much money they have, or how big their house is, or how their health is doing, or even how well their job is going. What is your answer?

We have an answer, and it isn't one that people came up with to make themselves feel better. It is God's answer, just listen: **“God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).** Does it get any clearer than that! Does it get any better than that!

We are so important to God that he didn't think twice about sparing his own Son when it came to saving us – and boy do we need saving. Just look at your life and I know you will find many of the same things that I find when I look at mine. Things like anger and frustration when others fail to be considerate to you; like selfishness and arrogance in thinking your way is always the best and only way; things like misplaced priorities, you know, like making time for everything but God and his Word.

Each and every one of these is reason enough for God to turn his back on us – and you and I know these aren't the only dark and ugly things we've done. God should banish us to hell forever, away from him who is perfect and holy. After all, what can we offer to him that would change his mind? But that is the beauty of God, instead of turning his back on us, he loved us. He said I will remove all the guilt of your sin from you. I will provide the perfection you need as a gift. And I will do it all through my Son. So Jesus came and did just that. He lived perfectly for us, died on a cross to pay for our sins, and rose from the dead to declare us not guilty. He did that for the world – for you too!

Now, isn't it important that you hear that again and again? When can news like that get old? How could we ever hear that too often? If this is how far God is willing to go for us, doesn't he deserve our wholehearted devotion and attention? You know the answer to that!

***But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)***

## 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](http://www.faithwels.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.  
October 22nd is the deadline for the November, 2016 newsletter.