

LADIES GROUPS

Ladies Aid—Cataract

The Ladies Aid will have their first meeting on **Thursday, September 3 at 12:30 p.m.** in Cataract. All ladies who are members of Faith are welcome to attend. They will start with a potluck lunch that day, so bring a dish to pass.

Ladies of Faith—Black River Falls

Ladies of Faith will start our 2020-2021 year on **Tuesday, September 8 at 6:00 pm.** Pastor will be leading us in a Bible study and we will discuss some possible projects for the fall. We will be serving a small snack and drinks. All ladies of the congregation are invited to come. You can even bring a friend!



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Phone: 715-284-0772
Pastor: Joel Neumann

We're on the Web!
www.faithwels.com



TIME CHANGE

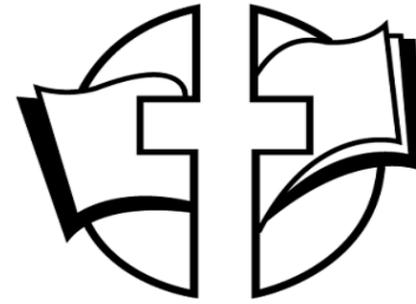
The summer is giving way to fall, and with that change comes a change to our regular worship service times. Starting Sunday, **September 13**, our worship service times will be as follows:

Sundays 8 am Black River Falls
Sundays 9:45 am Cataract
Mondays 6:30 pm Black River Falls

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is a part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a church body with congregations in all fifty states and missionaries in 25 countries.

We are a Christ Preaching Church! We believe, teach and confess that Jesus is God's own Son, who came into the world to be the Savior of all people so that through his sufferings, death and resurrection, we might have forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

We Are A Bible Teaching Church! We believe and teach that the Bible is the true and divinely inspired Word of God, the sole authority for Christian faith and life.



The Messenger

September 2020

SURE AND CERTAIN OF THE UNSEEN

This year in our monthly articles we are considering favorite verses from the Bible.

This month's favorite Bible verse is:

Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

It is amazing that with only a few clicks on a computer, we can dramatically alter photos. Such capabilities have led us to be a bit more wary. We find ourselves saying, "Unless I see it with my own eyes, how can I believe that it hasn't been touched up? I'll believe it when I see it."

Often this cynical attitude can touch our spiritual life. How can I believe that God loves me and knows what is going on in my life considering all troubles and disappointments I have to deal with?

The Bible tells us, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." How can we be sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see?

Faith

Think of a father and child playing the game where the father stands behind the child and tells him to fall backwards. The child, unable to see his father, still trusts that he is there and is certain that his father won't let him hit the ground. The child leans back and falls, fully convinced that his father will keep his word and catch him, because his father has always proved trustworthy.

This is the kind of trust we can have in our heavenly Father. Though we did not see the creation or the crucifixion, though we were not present to witness Jesus rising from the Easter tomb, though we have not heard his actual voice forgiving our sins and promising his return, we believe.

How can we be so sure and certain? Because God's Word is true and trustworthy. Our forgiveness is certain because Jesus did die and rise from the dead. God's love for us today and every day is sure. Every promise our Father has made about our eternal future, he will keep.

Faith is sure and certain of unseen things because it takes God at his word.

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, please contact Laura Mueller at the following email address: muellerlaura@hotmail.com. Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.

BIBLE CLASSES

Check out the Bible Class Schedule in the gathering area for information about all the Bible Classes that are offered here at Faith.

Politics is Driving Me Crazy

With each election cycle, the rhetoric becomes more overpowering. It comes at us from many different directions. We hear it in the national news broadcasts. We read it on our social media feeds. Sometimes the discussions are balanced and informative. Sometimes they are mean-spirited and inaccurate. Sometimes they instill hope. Sometimes they incite fear or anger. Sometimes they promote an agenda that is very obviously contrary to God's Word and will.

What can a Christian do? How does a Christian view politics? How does a Christian respond to the present political climate? How can a Christian find hope even when he or she is overwhelmed with the thought, "Politics is driving me crazy!"?

This Bible study offers a note of calm as it reminds us that we are citizens of two kingdoms, each with a different role and a different agenda. It offers a note of hope as it reminds us that God has absolute rule over both kingdoms. It offers a note of encouragement as it leads us to consider how we serve in both kingdoms.

Join us as we consider what God teaches us about our citizenship in two kingdoms.

Starting in Black River Falls on Wednesday, September 9 @ 6:30 pm
Starting in Cataract on Sunday, September 13 @ 11 a.m.



ADULT CHRIST LIGHT LESSONS

Christ Light is centered on Christ and grounded in God's Word and serves as an excellent way for adults to visit or revisit Old and New Testament Bible stories in group Bible study. These lessons correspond with those offered during the Sunday School Year, so parents of Sunday School kids can discuss lessons during the week at home.

Starting in Black River Falls on Sunday, September 13 @ 9:15 a.m.

- Council approved booking LP gas for the Cataract location ahead of time for the winter of 2020. MSC
- OLD BUSINESS**
- ⇒ Pastor came with three questions as we reviewed our worship service going forward. Decisions made in regards to the questions were...
 - Monday night church services will continue through September, and be re-evaluated again at the September Council meeting.
 - Facebook Live and YouTube will continue through September, and be re-evaluated again at the September Council meeting.
 - Singing will continue to be limited at all church services.

NEW BUSINESS

- ⇒ The Thanksgiving service will be held in Black River Falls this year to accommodate social distancing.
- ⇒ While we are continuing to have 3 services per week, any guest pastors will be paid \$75 per service for a total of \$225 plus mileage.
- ⇒ Brad reviewed the proposal for Sunday Morning Bible Education. Council was supportive of the Bible Class Teacher's recommendations. Bible Class and Sunday school will start on schedule and we will do all we can to properly social distance.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer
The next Council Meeting will be on September 22nd at 6pm held in BRF.

Recorded by Garrett Jessie

MEETINGS AND GROUP GATHERINGS THIS MONTH

Ladies Aid

Thursday—September 3 @ 12:30 p.m. in Cataract

Ladies of Faith

Tuesday—September 8 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Child Protection Ad Hoc Meeting

Saturday—September 12 @ 9 a.m. in Black River Falls

Youth Group

Sunday—September 13 @ 2 p.m. in Black River Falls

Elders Meeting

Tuesday—September 15 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

Church Council Meeting

Tuesday—September 22 @ 6 p.m. in Black River Falls

September Birthdays

Joni Timm	9/1
Derek Southwood	9/8
Jon Mlsna	9/18
Channing Manske	9/18
Rudy Jeseritz	9/19
Les Mlsna	9/20
Majesta Heller	9/23
Danielle Pryor	9/28
Jan Eggen	9/28
Mary Christie	9/29

September Anniversaries

Jeff + Penny Nicolai	9/7
Dale + Emily Timm	9/14
Danielle + Jesse Pryor	9/26

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Summary

August 18, 2020



Central Africa Medical Mission Malawi

August 2020



The meeting opened at 6 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a precious to the Flock Bible Study.

ATTENDANCE

Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Dave Spaude, Kirk Geotzka, Rick Treptow, Scott Templeton

ELDER'S REPORT

- ⇒ Profession of Faith of John Lechner and acceptance into membership
- ⇒ Bible Class Surveys have been sent out last week. Elder's will be calling members to encourage everyone to fill the survey out.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- ⇒ Pastor presented a statistical report for the month of July
- ⇒ Pastor reviewed Ministry & Worship items
 - Reminded the council of the worship time change taking place on September 13
 - He informed the council that the sermon devotions would end on August 30; The Christian Faith, One Word at a Time video devotions would end September 16; and the Children's Video Devotions would end September 2
 - He highlighted the Bible Class Schedule and encouraged the council to lead by example when it comes to Bible Class participation and attendance.
 - He informed the council of the plan for a Stewardship emphasis/Bible Class in October. The emphasis will take place over a course of 3 Sundays with a single Bible Class built into the Bible Class Schedule where all the communicant members will be encouraged to attend. The theme of the Stewardship Emphasis will be: Called Together for Blessing
 - Pastor highlighted a neat opportunity that has arisen at Jackson Correctional Institution as a result of the congregation being willing to allow some of his time to be focused on that ministry. Although he is unable to enter the prison right now, the chaplain asked if we had video services we could share with him so that he could play the services for the inmates. Brad Markhardt burned the Easter Season and Ascension services so they will be able to be played. In addition to the DVD's, Pastor dropped off Meditations, Forward in Christ's and printed sermons for the gentleman that he had been meeting with one-on-one.
 - Council approved to give Luther High \$1000 for their 2021 fiscal year pledge. MSC (Motion – Seconded – Confirmed)

FINANCIAL REPORT

- ⇒ Brad presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$24,289.91 through the end of July. MSC to accept financial report for July, 2020

SPECIAL REPORTS

- ⇒ Council reviewed the Outreach Committee Report supplied by Brad Markhardt. A few highlights...
 - There were 52 attendees at the Bible Soccer Camp this year
 - Christmas Crafts for Kids is currently planned and scheduled for Nov. 14 from 9-11 am
 - The Mentorship program is off to a good start with the first family enrolling.
- ⇒ Scott Templeton gave a report on the Property Committee work
 - The sound system in the Black River Falls location has been updated at a cost of \$1,592.

Back in March of this year, the conventional wisdom was that Covid-19 would spread through Zambia and Malawi like a brushfire. That didn't happen. Zambia reported its first official case in late March and in Malawi it was early April. As it stands today Malawi has officially recorded around 4,300 cases and Zambia about 5,500. While the disease was slow to start in both countries the rate of infection has definitely picked up in the last weeks.

The Zambian government was quick to take action when the virus was first spreading. On a trip to Lusaka in late February I filled in a health form and had my temperature taken as I entered the immigration hall. In the Shibuyunji District where our clinic at Mwembzhi is located, government health officers began teaching about Coronavirus in the villages in February/March. At our clinic we started requiring our staff to wear masks, gloves and face masks, we limited the number of people entering the clinic building, set up a hand washing station outside and disinfected all the supplies and parcels that were delivered to the clinic. We had cloth masks made up and distributed them to our staff. We required Alisad Banda, our administrator, to work from home and to disinfect our vehicle every time he used it. On his drive to the clinic, he discovered that the government had set up a testing station where the driver's temperature was checked, and the vehicle was disinfected. So far there has only been one case of Covid-19 in the Shibuyunji district and none so far at our clinic. In Lusaka, minibuses which are the main form of public transport, were required to carry fewer passengers, disinfect regularly, and keep windows open. Stores and businesses set up handwashing stations for customers and the number of people entering stores was limited.

In Malawi, the government was slower to act. There were anecdotal stories of government officials laughing off the virus – referring to it as a white man's disease. By mid-March, Lutheran Mobile Clinic nurses began teaching about Covid-19 to our patients but when we spoke to government health officers working at the district health center, we discovered they had received little to no training at all. By mid-March, businesses required handwashing before entry and today nearly all require facemasks to enter. The government attempted a lockdown in April, but almost immediately an injunction stopped the lockdown. The injunction was brought because many people live on the money they make that day, they have little or no savings and it was feared that a lockdown would lead to starvation among the country's poorer population. Outdoor markets remain open but people are required to wear face masks.

Our Malawian staff tell us that they are well health wise, but some are affected spiritually as they are unable to go to church. Few if any Malawian churches use Facebook or YouTube to live broadcast or record services. Some services are broadcast by radio. Schools are closed and there has been a significant increase in teen pregnancy. While fuel and food are available, many businesses have closed because only essential goods are being imported. As a result, unemployment has risen in a country that does not have an unemployment support system. A lot of health care professionals have contracted the disease because of a lack of PPE and poor training. Many private and Non-Governmental Organization clinics have closed. The good news for the Villages we serve is that our Government Health Surveillance Assistants have continued to provide under five vaccinations at our clinic sites.

We ask that you continue to pray for our Lutheran congregations of Zambia and Malawi, that they will be spared from the terrible effects of this disease, and that God brings an end to this pandemic. We have been working on plans as to how we can safely reopen our clinics and are anxious to return to Malawi to continue the Lord's work.

Gary Evans, Clinic Administrator

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP UPDATE

Because of the ever changing and fluid nature of things in our world today, the church council has decided to review the worship and ministry of Faith at each of its monthly council meetings. This review seeks to set the direction of what we will do in the coming month. After its last meeting, the Church Council decided these things concerning the month of September.



- † Monday evening worship services WILL continue. We will have service at 6:30 pm in Black River Falls on Monday, September 7, 14, 21, and 28. (Please note: **we WILL have service Labor Day evening**)
- † Facebook Live will continue. It will be live at the Black River Falls service each morning. That means at 9:45 a.m. on September 6 and then at **8 a.m.** on September 13, 20, and 27. It will continue to be uploaded to our YouTube channel later those Sunday mornings.
- † For the month of September we will continue with services that include more speaking and less singing – this is what we have been doing during the month of August.



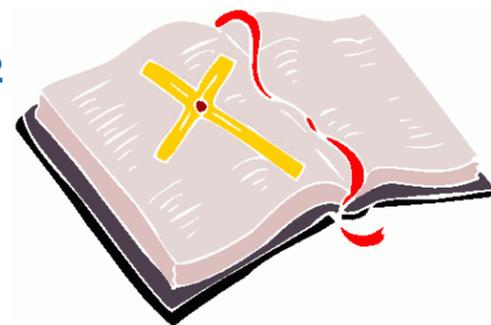
It has been decided that - as a result of all that is going on with COVID-19, its guidelines, masks, etc. – we will aim for starting choir in January of 2021.

CHOIR

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE EDUCATION BEGINS SUNDAY, SEPT. 13

A new round of Sunday morning Bible education begins at our Black River Falls location on Sunday, September 13. We encourage you to be like Mary and sit at the feet of Jesus for the one thing needful (see Luke 10:38-42). We will be using the lesson schedule from the Christ-Light curriculum for all the classes. This will help with your Bible conversations, especially at home. Home devotions utilizing the lesson are found in the adult lessons.

There will be an adult and teen Bible study and “Sunday School” classes will be held for pre-K through 6th grade children. All classes run from 9:15-10:15 a.m. Sunday School will be taught as a single classroom this year, with each student having their own grade level lesson sheet and worksheets. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt.



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting Minutes Summary

August 2, 2020

The meeting opened at 11:30 pm with Pastor Neumann leading us in a devotion on Psalm 2 and prayer.

ATTENDANCE

Pastor Neumann, Garrett Jessie, Dale Jessie, Gale Jessie, Kirk Goetzka, Rick Treptow, Dave Spaude, Brad Rahmlow, Rudy Jeseritz, Mark Mueller, Scott Templeton, Bill Yahnke

ELDER'S REPORT

- ⇒ There will be a survey coming out to the congregation regarding bible class attendance. All are encouraged to participate in the survey.
- ⇒ Voters' present ratified these actions of council
 - Linda Geddes into membership by profession of faith
 - The release of RYANNE RODGERS and JOIE BACON
 - The transfer to Concordia Lutheran Church in Eau Claire of LLOYD and KIMBERLY HARTER (ELEANOR)
- ⇒ A statistical report of the 2nd Quarter was presented

SPECIAL REPORTS

- ⇒ Property Committee
 - The parking lot in BRF has been re-sealed and several loads of gravel have been added around the edge of the pavement.
 - The property committee will be somewhat over budget due to the following unplanned expenses
 - The upgrade to the sound system in BRF at an approximate cost of \$1600
 - The septic system in BRF is scheduled to be pumped this year
 - A thermostat in the BRF building needed to be replaced. The cost was \$600
- ⇒ Outreach Committee
 - The concert in the park was cancelled.
 - Lotsa helping hands will be introduced to the church in the near future.
 - The Bible Soccer Camp starts tomorrow, 26 people have pre-registered.
 - The Outreach Committee will be rolling out a New Membership Mentoring Program
 - Possibility for re-visiting Children's Christmas Eve service on a different day.
 - There was encouragement from members to continue looking forward to establishing a school at the church in BRF.
 - Scott will get a quote for having a cleaning service come to Cataract to do a deep cleaning of the church.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- ⇒ Brad presented a financial report showing a net gain of \$31,594.60 through the end of the second half of 2020. MSC to accept financial report.

NEW BUSINESS

- ⇒ Discussed the PPP loan that was granted to the church.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm with Pastor leading us in the Lord's Prayer.

The next Quarterly Congregational Meeting will be held in BRF, October 25th at 1pm.