

BIRTHDAYS

Derek Southwood	9/8
Jon Mlsna	9/18
Channing Manske	9/18
Rudy Jeseritz	9/19
Les Mlsna	9/20
Majesta Heller	9/23
Jan Eggen	9/28



ANNIVERSARIES

Jeff + Penny Nicolai	9/7
Dale + Emily Timm	9/14
Danielle + Jesse Pryor	9/25



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Sparta, WI 54656

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Pastor: Joel Neumann

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

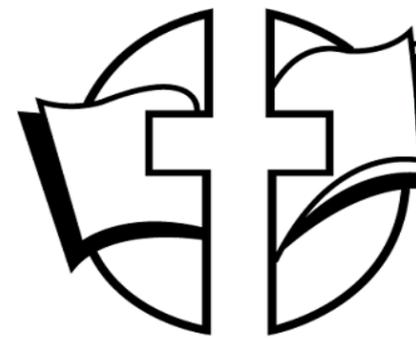
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church is a part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a church body with congregations in all fifty states and missionaries in 25 countries.

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 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 Pastor Neumann either in person or at the following email address: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com. Newsletter deadline: The submission deadline is the next-to-the-last Sunday of each month.



The Messenger

SEPTEMBER 2018

LOVE IS THE GREATEST

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)

God's grace provides so many gifts that we are inclined to take most of them for granted – legs that can walk, minds that can remember, eyes that can see, hands that can help. He cares for us daily by providing parents who love us, homes that shelter us, foods that nourish us, and protection from the danger that surrounds us. Even greater than all these blessings are the spiritual gifts of faith, hope, and love.

Faith is the “hand” that lays hold of Christ Jesus as the Son of God and embraces him as the Savior from sin. Faith is a most precious gift of the Spirit. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8). Faith is the foundation for our hopes and the evidence of what we are not yet able to see in person.

Hope is the second in this list of three very special gifts. Hope is the expectation of

eternal salvation through Christ. Our hopes are built “on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.” Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, saying, “May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word” (2 Thessalonians 2:16,17).

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.” Love completes this triangle of God's grace. Our newsletter devotions over the last months have shown us what a precious gift we possess in the love God has shown to us in Christ. It is love which we have in no way deserved, love beyond our understanding, which led to his atoning sacrificial death. That love made us God's own. And that love reaches its fullness in heaven; it is a love that lasts forever.

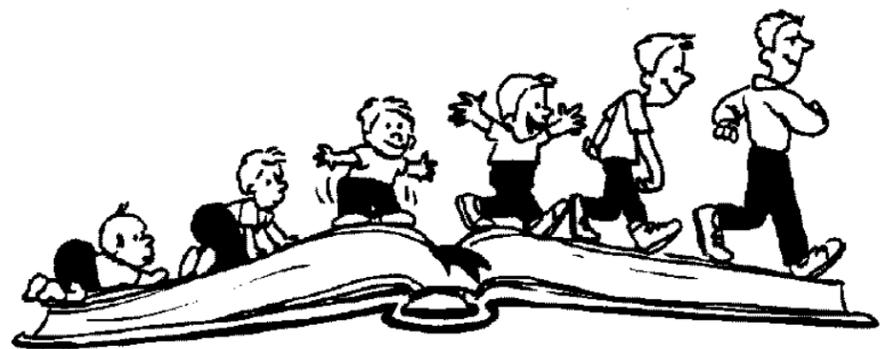
“But the greatest of these is love,” Paul concludes. Here in time all three – faith, hope and love – abide with us. They all have to do with the priceless salvation of our souls. But love outranks all the others; love is greatest. Why?

That's a good question. And you know, Paul doesn't really tell us the answer. Perhaps the best answer is that God is not called faith or hope directly, he is called love. In addition, the author of the People's Bible shares this thought: “To have Christian love is to be most like God. We may also say that love brings us into the fullest union and communion with God, and that love is God's greatest gift. But even if we cannot grasp all of Paul's meaning, we dare never forget that love is the greatest of all our gifts and qualities. Without that love we cannot understand God or what it means to be a Christian.”

SUNDAY BIBLE EDUCATION

A new round of Sunday morning Bible education begins at our Black River Falls location on Sunday, **September 9**, with something for everyone! 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 9:15-10:30 a.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Neumann or Brad Markhardt.

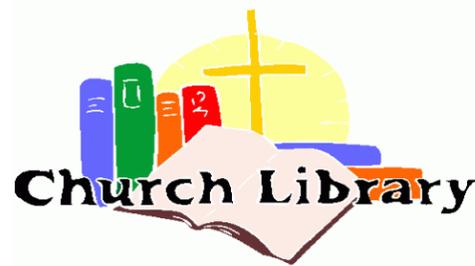


FROM THE LIBRARY

The Church History section of our church library located in the Fellowship Hall at the BRF location has 2 copies of the book ***The Diary of a Missionary*** by Ernst H. Wendland. After serving for 20 years in a parish, Wendland, his wife, and 6 children started a new life in Africa. This book gives a glimpse into the everyday life of a missionary and his family and the daily challenges of living in an entirely new culture.

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 into the basket on the shelf and cross out your entry in the notebook.



2018 MEN OF HIS WORD CONFERENCE

Have you seen the news lately? It's crazy out there. The world attacks our Christian values from every direction on a daily basis. To counter these attacks, the Men of his Word Conference provides opportunities and resources for men to grow spiritually, using God's Word to empower and equip men to carry out their God-given mission in their homes, churches, communities and the world. This year's theme is "GET OUT OF THE BOAT."

Whether you attend for the keynote speaker (Pastor Jared Oldenburg from Eternal Rock in Castle Rock, Colorado), the relevant, thought-provoking breakout sessions (12 to choose from), or the worship experience with 300 other men (with Koine', the worship band), God's Word will speak to you.



The 4th annual MOHW Conference will be held at the Kahler Hotel and Conference Center in Rochester MN on Saturday, October 27, 2018. Additional details and registration can be found in the gathering area and are available at www.menofhisword.org. Costs are: for the first 300 men (\$50 by October 14th; \$60 from October 15th – 21th). Faith Lutheran Church has budgeted to cover the cost for men from our congregation who would like to go.

If you plan to go, please let Pastor know and perhaps a carpool can be set up.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

All Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) churches need to be a safe place where leaders actively work to prevent abuse. It is for this reason that our WELS Synod is encouraging each congregation to formulate and adopt a child protection policy. The church council of our congregation feels that this is a good idea, and so we will be forming an Ad Hoc Committee to research and develop this policy. What is an Ad Hoc Committee you ask? An Ad Hoc Committee is a committee formed for a specific task or objective, and dissolved after the completion of the task or achievement of the objective. Any member of our congregation can be a member of this committee. If you would be willing to serve on this limited length committee, please speak with Pastor.

LUTHERAN MOBILE CLINIC (CAMM)

It's the dry season in Malawi, and temperatures are gradually warming up, though the early mornings are still cool. The hills are more brown than green, and our ambulance leaves a cloud of red dust as we travel to clinics. The distant mountains are blurred with smoke and dust, but the sky is blue every day. Sunny days make for more light in our Msambo clinic building, where we had been bringing battery or solar-powered lights so our staff could see to do their work on cloudy days. This week we didn't need them, and we were thankful.

The outpatient numbers are going down a bit, mainly due to far less patients having malaria this past month. Mosquitos are not as prevalent when there isn't rain, so there are less around to spread the parasite. The children seem to be the sickest with malaria, and we test them and give them the medicine, but we are seeing only about two thirds as many as in previous months. There are plenty of patients with respiratory illnesses and skin rashes but less very sick patients to refer to the hospital, and I'm thankful.

The lines of mothers with children coming to under-fives clinics are still long most days, and there is the constant sound of crying babies getting their life-saving immunizations. We were able to give moms the handmade baby hats and washcloths given by women in the US, and they were thankful.

Four members of the CAMM committee spent 6 days here visiting Gary and me in Malawi at the end of July- Shelly Sievert, Cindy Fietzer, Cheryl Valus and her husband Mike. They brought needed clinic supplies like rolls of gauze, orthopedic equipment, and ambu bags as well as another essential, chocolate chips! They came out to clinics to observe, count pills, meet our staff and see the clinic buildings. They even helped unpack pill bottles and put them in bags, all ready to pack in the ambulance. Gary and I had good meetings with them and had their input with important decisions. We had some enjoyable gatherings with them and much of the mission family here. God granted them good health and safe travels on to Zambia and then home. We are thankful.

The Lord allows this medical mission work in Malawi to continue through many volunteer hours, monetary donations and answered prayer. We thank God for the means to continue serving the people of Malawi with medical care.

Your sister in Christ
Beth Evans,
Nurse in Charge



LOOKING AHEAD IN SEPTEMBER

September 2 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Focus – Seven Letters to Seven Churches - - - “He who has an ear, let him hear”

Readings: 2 Samuel 24:10-25; Revelation 3:14-21; Mark 8:34-38

September 9 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Focus – Unbelief mocks and says that if God did all things well and was the source of all good, then he shouldn't allow misery in the first place. But the reality is that especially in need and suffering God does all things well; that truth is the center of the Christian's quiet confidence.

Readings: Mark 7:31-37; Isaiah 35:4-7; James 1:17-27

September 16 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Focus – Christ came to suffer; Christ came to die. His obedience and love were not cheap. Ours should not be either.

Readings: Mark 8:27-35; Jeremiah 38:1-13; 1 Peter 4:12-19

September 23 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Focus – The common thought that runs through the readings this day can be expressed in the words – God opposes the proud and gives grace to the humble. Letting oneself be controlled by the proud desires of the heart is the way of the world and not the way of the child of God. We who are children of God want to keep the proud desires of the heart under control while submitting to the will of the Lord in all things.

Readings: Mark 9:30-37; Jeremiah 11:18-20; James 3:13-18

September 30 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Focus – Strife among God's children should not happen, but it does. The devil sows his seeds of discord wherever he can. The sinful flesh is an enemy of peace as it promotes selfish pride and stirs jealousy. The readings for this day encourage us to guard against those things that disrupt the harmony the Spirit works through faith in Jesus Christ.

Readings: Mark 9:38-50; Numbers 11:16, 24-29; James 4:7-12



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 9, our worship service times will be as follows:

8 a.m. – Black River Falls - - - 9:45 a.m. – Cataract.

BEGINNING THIS MONTH

Three separate Bible Classes offered at four different times begin in September. Take a look and plan to attend!

GOD'S PROVIDENCE: He Cares for You

"One night four-year-old Sarah didn't want to go to bed because she was afraid of the dark. Her mother tried to soothe her, but Sarah wouldn't go to bed. When her mother turned off the lights, Sarah saw the moon and asked, 'will God put out his light and go to sleep now too?' 'No,' her mother said, 'God never goes to sleep.' 'Well,' Sarah said, 'if God isn't going to go to sleep, there's no sense in both of us staying awake, is there?' (God's Providence: People's Bible Teaching)

Because God is our heavenly Father, we know that he stays awake to watch over us. But, can we be sure that God cares for every aspect of our lives? And, if he watches over us, why do things happen the way they do? Not only that, but what relation does God have with the evil in our world? We dive into these thoughts as we let Scripture answer these important questions.

Starting in Black River Falls on Wednesday, September 5 @ 7 p.m.

Starting in Cataract on Sunday, September 9 @ 11 a.m.

2000 DEMONS

NO MATCH FOR MY SAVIOR

This excellent, insightful, and devotional book takes a look at the power of Christ over every element of the spiritual world. The author takes a gentle approach to help the reader gain a better perspective about Jesus and demonic activity. It reveals the very real danger of evil spirits, even to this day. However, it also shows the power our Savior wields over the darkest of foes. Above all, this book will reassure you of the ultimate protection Jesus won for you and all who believe, thanks to his victorious death and resurrection.

The book is for any age; even/especially for young people and parents of teenagers because the world they're growing up in casually accepts and promotes an unhealthy interest in demons, ghosts, horror movies, etc. **Starting September 15 at 9 a.m. – In the Black River Falls fellowship hall**

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 9 @ 9:15 a.m.

HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH

CHOIR

The new choir season is about to begin, starting September 5 at 6:15 p.m in Black River Falls. We're looking forward to a great year of singing God's praises. An exciting Easter Cantata, "He Rises!" is planned for April 28. New members are always welcome to join us in singing God's praises. If you have any questions, please talk with Nancy Templeton.



MINI GOLF with FiSH

The FiSH group (Faith's Social Harbor) invites area adults to an afternoon of mini golf at Pirates Cove in Wisconsin Dells on Saturday, September 8! Carpooling will occur at 10 a.m. from the Black River Falls building. Bring some money for lunch before golfing. Cost for two rounds of 18 holes is about \$13. Expect to be back around 4 p.m. FiSH is a social group sponsored by Faith Ev. Lutheran Church geared toward recreation activities for adults, single or married, young or old. Invite your friends!



LADIES AID IN CATARACT

The Ladies Aid in Cataract will have their first meeting of the year on Thursday, September 6 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.

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group will meet in Black River Falls on Sunday, September 16 from 2-3:30 p.m. Our youth group includes all those in 7-12 grade.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will begin for all 6th-8th grade children on Wednesday, September 5th. We will meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. this year.

Faith Outreach Meeting

This is an open meeting – anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Agenda items include evaluation of summer home devotions and planning for C18. Our meeting will take place Sunday, September 30, at 12:30 p.m. in the BRF church building.

LANDSCAPE BRIGADE

Consider helping the Landscape Brigade on Saturday, September 8, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. This month we will be putting down mulch. There is also some weeding that can be done. The Landscape Brigade will meet the second Saturday of each month, April through October, from 8:00-9:00 a.m. Tools will be provided, but feel free to bring your own if you would like to.



TEACHERS

The Faith teachers will meet Sunday, September 30, from 6-7:30 pm in the BRF church building.