

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Today	Worship (Facebook Live) @ BRF.....	8:00 AM
.....	Christmas Eve Service Practice @ BRF.....	9:15 AM
.....	Worship @ CAT.....	9:45 AM
.....	Bible Class @ CAT.....	11:00 AM
.....	Youth Group @ BRF.....	2:00 PM
Monday	Confirmation @ Zoom.....	4:20 PM
.....	Vision Timeline Cong. Meeting @ BRF.....	6:00 PM
.....	Council Meeting @ BRF.....	7:00 PM
Tuesday	JCI Pastoral Visits.....	1:00 PM
.....	JCI Bible Class & Pastoral Visits.....	6:00 PM
Wednesday	Pineview Nursing Home Service.....	2:00 PM
.....	Confirmation @ BRF.....	5:30 PM
.....	Choir @ BRF.....	6:15 PM
.....	Bible Class @ BRF.....	7:00 PM
Thursday	Bible Information Class @ CAT.....	1:00 PM
.....	Christmas Eve Service Practice @ BRF.....	5:30 PM
.....	Know Your Bible Better BC @ BRF.....	6:30 PM
Friday	Children's Christmas Eve Service @ BRF.....	4:00 PM
.....	Candlelight Christmas Service @ CAT.....	7:00 PM
Saturday	Christmas Day Worship @ BRF.....	8:00 AM
.....	Christmas Day Worship @ CAT.....	9:45 AM
Sunday	Worship (Facebook Live) @ BRF.....	8:00 AM
.....	Worship @ CAT.....	9:45 AM

December 19, 2021

4th Sunday in Advent

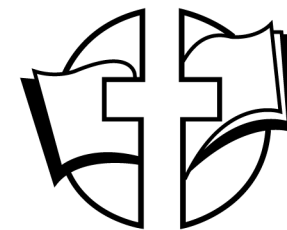


Forgiveness and Peace are Ours



DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday	Luke 9:1-17	Proverbs 10:24-32
Monday	Luke 9:18-36	Proverbs 11:1-19
Tuesday	Luke 9:37-62	Proverbs 11:20-31
Wednesday	Luke 10:1-24	Proverbs 12:1-14
Thursday	Luke 10:25-42	Proverbs 12:15-20
Friday	Luke 11:1-13	Proverbs 12:21-28
Saturday	Luke 11:14-36	Proverbs 13:1-25



FAITH
EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

...Rooted in Christ...Reaching Out with the Word

faithwels.com

FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BLACK RIVER FALLS LOCATION

N6598 County Rd. A. Black River Falls, WI 54615
Worship Time: 8:00 a.m.
Bible Class & Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.

CATARACT LOCATION

N6774 Acorn Ave. Sparta, WI 54656
Worship Time: 9:45 a.m.
Bible Class: 11:00 a.m.

PASTOR: JOEL NEUMANN

OFFICE (In Black River Falls): **715.284.0772**

CELL: 715.721.2011

EMAIL: pastorjoelneumann@gmail.com

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

By this time of the holiday season, it is easy to be weighed down. We feel guilty about presents that aren't perfect, parties that did not go as planned, or year-end projects that are not completed. To top it all off, now is when it can easily dawn on us just how little attention we have given to the spiritual preparation Advent invites. If that is how we feel, perhaps the frenzy of December has actually done us a favor. We have been made aware of our shortcomings, maybe even humbled. Perfect! For being made aware of our weaknesses does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. It prepares us for the work he does best.

WORSHIP HOSPITALITY

*We are pleased that you have joined us for worship. If you are in need of **restrooms**, they are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the sanctuary. If your child becomes restless during the service there is a **quiet room** outside the sanctuary if you need to take them out. **Hearing assistance** is available, please speak to an usher. And if it has become difficult to stand for longer periods of time, **please do not feel that you must stand** each time the congregation is invited to stand.*

A FEW NOTES ON OUR WORSHIP

The order of service is printed in the bulletin. Worship materials have been reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net A-716373 and CCLI.net #5041775.

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DEVOTION BOOK SWAP

Need a devotion book for 2022? Need to exchange the one you use now with a new one? Bring your old devotion book to church to the final services of this month or the first few services of the New Year and pick up a new one after service. Or, grab a devotion book for the first time. Questions? Speak to Carolyn Diener.

ENVELOPES

Please note that offering envelopes for 2022 can be found in the gathering area.

NEW HYMNAL ORDER

Faith Lutheran Church will be ordering some new hymnals for our choir. If you would like a new hymnal for yourself at home, the church will order one for you and you can reimburse the congregation when it arrives. If you want one, please sign up in the gathering area. The cost will be \$25.



SPEND CHRISTMAS IN
GOD'S WORD

Children's Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 4 p.m.—in Black River Falls

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 7 p.m.—in Cataract

Christmas Day Worship
December 25, 8 a.m.—in Black River Falls
December 25, 9:45 a.m.—in Cataract

New Year's Eve Worship
December 31, 6:30 p.m.—in Black River Falls

FAITH IN ACTION

DEDICATION TO THE WORD OF GOD

- Last Sunday
 - Worshipers in God's House 85
 - Worshipers Online 9
 - Bible Class (*Cataract only*) 11
 - Sunday School 15
- Wednesday Bible Class 10
- Thursday Bible Class 4

SUNDAY SERMONS

Copies of Sunday sermons can be found in the gathering area. Sermons can also be found online at www.faihwels.com.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE

The Sunday School children will practice the Christmas Eve service after worship today. Please note, there will be a special practice on Thursday, Dec. 23, at 5:30 pm.

YOUTH GROUP

The youth group will meet next today—December 19—at 2 pm at our Black River Falls campus. We will spend time talking about the Youth Rally in June, 2022; the youth worship service in January, 2022; and we'll have a devotion and games.

VISION TIMELINE REVIEW

Did you know that Faith has a Vision Timeline? This document is meant to help set the direction and focus of our congregation, under God's grace and blessings, for the year(s) to come. Each year our congregation takes time to review it to see how we are doing and what needs to be emphasized and added. We will have this review on Monday, December 20, from 6-7 pm at our Black River Falls campus. All members are invited, encouraged and welcome to attend. Copies of the Vision Timeline are available for you to look at ahead of time—they are in the gathering area.

Holy Communion—a note to our guests

The Bible tells us that those who receive communion together are to:

1. *Recognize that Christ's true body and blood are present in the Sacrament (1 Corinthians 11:29),*
2. *Examine themselves (1 Corinthians 11:28),*
3. *Be united in faith with the congregation with which they commune (1 Corinthians 10:17).*

*Since it is not possible for us to know whether unity in these areas exist apart from a person's public confession, we practice **close communion**. That is, we invite those who have publicly confessed oneness with us by membership in our congregation or another WELS congregation to come forward to join us for Holy Communion. If you have questions concerning this practice or would like to establish a communion fellowship with us, please speak with our pastor. He would be happy to explore God's Word with you.*

Prayer before Worship

Eternal God, everything belongs to you. You have provided me with all that is necessary for my life and have generously given much more than I need. Surrounded by all these gifts from you, I ask for one more blessing. Please give me a thankful heart, which humbly recognizes that all good gifts come from you. Help me to find peace at the foot of my Savior's cross, knowing that he has provided the greatest gift of all: eternal life with you. Amen.

Service Participants

Presiding Minister

Pastor Joel Neumann

Organist

Mrs. Nancy Templeton



Divine Service I

OPENING HYMN

Oh, that I Had a Thousand Voices | 194 (1,3-4)

please stand for the fourth verse

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

CHOIR & CONGREGATION

“Peace, Peace”

Choir

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.

This is a time for joy. This is a time for love.

Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

Choir

Peace, peace, peace on earth and good will to all.

This is a time for joy. This is a time for love.

Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

Congregation & Choir

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright.

‘Round yon virgin mother and Child!

Holy Infant, so tender and mild.

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of

God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

Be Seated

PERSONAL PREPARATION

Our congregation practices the biblical teaching of close communion. The Bible teaches that communing together signifies a oneness in faith, life, and worship. Reception of the Lord's Supper by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which doesn't exist. Therefore, if you are a member of Faith or a sister Wisconsin Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us today.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table | 310

Please stand

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the

high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us.
 You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, re -
 ceive our prayer. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is (+) my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
 God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
 ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -
 ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir-it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. Glo - ry to God in the
 high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5

²But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

³Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵This one will be their peace.

HYMN

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | 23 (1,2)

**1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**2 Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me. ⁶You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

This is a moment in our worship when members and friends of Faith respond to God's good news with gifts to support His work. If you are a visitor, please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering. You are our guests—we rejoice in the opportunity to share God's Word with you!

Please stand

THE PRAYERS

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

3 Questions for Christmas
 Who is this Jesus?
 Who is he for?
 How will we receive him?

CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a
 pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
 in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
 pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
 hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

⁷Then I said, “Here I am. I have come to do your will, God. In the scroll of the book it is written about me.”

⁸First he said:

Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law, both burnt offerings and sin offerings, you did not desire, and you were not pleased with them.

⁹Then he said:

Here I am. I have come to do your will. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

HYMN

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel | 23 (3,4)

**3 Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**4 Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav’nly home.
 Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

Please stand

P: The Gospel reading from Luke chapter 1.

Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, ⁴⁸because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from
Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the
Father. Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and
became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came | 24