

WE'RE MOVING!

During the season of Lent our normal Wednesday confirmation, Bible study classes, and choir practices will move to Mondays (choir will only meet *some* Mondays). We will still meet at 5:30 p.m. for confirmation and 7 p.m. for Bible Study. The first day of this change will be Monday, February 28. **No choir that Monday.** Please note that this will also affect the **March Ladies of Faith meeting**. That meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 8, at 6 pm.**

LENT IS FAST APPROACHING

The season of Lent is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 2. During this season we have extra opportunity to gather around our Lord's Word and be encouraged by our fellow members. God's blessings as you adjust your schedule around God's Word that you might make use of this blessed worship opportunity.

**MARCH 2 – ASH WEDNESDAY**

4:30 p.m. – Service in Cataract

5:30 p.m. – Simple Supper at both locations

6:30 p.m. – Service in Black River Falls

LWMS MISSION BOXES

If you have been collecting an offering for the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society, it is time for them to be given. If you have a mission box, or if you wanted to write a check, please get it to Linda Jessie by March 13.

One
by one



...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

When you think of a missionary, what type of person comes to mind? Do you think of a pastor walking through the bush of Africa? Do you think of sending a pastor and his family overseas? These are examples of missionaries, but not the only ones. Today we want to change the way we often think of those who share the gospel. We want to see ourselves as missionaries who take the gospel with us wherever we go.

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 in Black River Falls, 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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FAITH IN ACTION

DEDICATION TO THE WORD OF GOD

- Last Sunday
 - Worshipers in God's House 72
 - Worshipers Online 9
 - Bible Class 31
 - Sunday School 7
- Wednesday Bible Class 10

SUNDAY SERMONS

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

MEETING & GATHERINGS THIS WEEK

Faith Teachers Meeting—Today @ 12:30 pm at our Black River Falls campus

Council—Monday @ 6 pm at our Black River Falls campus

YOUTH GROUP

Next Saturday, February 26, the youth will go roller-skating at High Roller Skating Rink in Eau Claire. The cost will be \$15. We will meet in the Black River Falls parking lot at 12:45 p.m. and carpool from there. Please have your child fed before we leave. After a few hours of skating, we will find a place to eat. The Church Council approved covering the cost of the meal. We hope to return between 7-8 pm that evening. Any parents who would like to go are welcome. Please sign up if you plan to attend.

DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

Consider being a part of our mixed instrumental ensemble! Our mixed instrumental ensemble will play during the offering at the Easter morning service in Black River Falls at the 8 a.m. service. There will be two group practices: after the Good Friday service and at 7:15 a.m. Easter morning. If you would like to play with this group, please let Brad Markhardt or Pastor Neumann know by February 27.

THIS WEEK AT FAITH

Today	Worship (Facebook Live) @ BRF	8:00 AM
.....	Bible Class & Sunday School @ BRF	9:15 AM
.....	Worship @ CAT	9:45 AM
.....	Bible Class @ CAT.....	11:00 AM
.....	Faith Teachers Meeting @ BRF	12:30 PM
Monday	Bible Information Class	1:30 PM
.....	Confirmation @ Zoom.....	4:00 PM
.....	Council Meeting @ BRF.....	6:00 PM
Tuesday	Pastors Conference	9:00 AM
Wednesday	Confirmation @ BRF.....	5:30 PM
.....	Choir @ BRF.....	6:15 PM
.....	Bible Class @ BRF	7:00 PM
Friday	Bible Information Class @ CAT.....	10:00 AM
Saturday	Youth Group Outing @ BRF.....	12:45 PM
Sunday	Worship (Facebook Live) @ BRF	8:00 AM
.....	Bible Class & Sunday School @ BRF	9:15 AM
.....	Worship @ CAT	9:45 AM
.....	Bible Class @ CAT.....	11:00 AM

DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday	Matthew 14:13-36	Proverbs 28:11-17
Monday	Matthew 15:1-20	Proverbs 28:18-23
Tuesday	Matthew 15:21-28	Proverbs 28:24-28
Wednesday	Matthew 15:29-39	Proverbs 29:1-7
Thursday	Matthew 16:1-12	Proverbs 29:8-14
Friday	Matthew 16:13-28	Proverbs 29:15-21
Saturday	Matthew 17:1-13	Proverbs 29:22-27



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

Give me a caring heart, O Lord, to love and seek the lost. Overcome my fear, and grant me courage to share my hope of salvation with those who have no hope. Make me faithful in my daily life so that all I say and do may glorify you. Amen. *(Taken from a book published by Northwestern Publishing House titled—“There’s a Prayer for That...”)*

Service Participants

Presiding Minister	Pastor Joel Neumann
Organist	Mrs. Nancy Templeton (8 am)
	Mrs. Linda Jessie (9:45 am)



Divine Service I

OPENING HYMN

Lord of My Life, Whose Tender Care | 232

please stand for the final verse

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

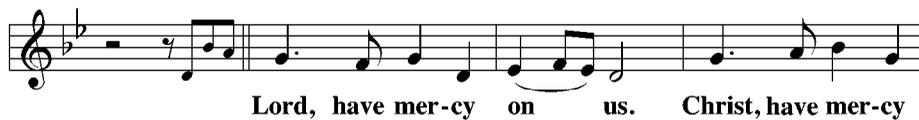
CONFESSION OF SINS

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



God's Promise—This new life is yours as a gift

Romans 6:23 the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God invites you: *Acts 16:31 Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.*

CATCH & CLASP

◇ We are here today confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior...and it's all because of the Holy Spirit's power working through the message of Jesus. That power works in us the courage to do what at times might be uncomfortable or inconvenient. That power is at work through the message of Jesus we share!

Please stand

P: Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

I Hear the Savior Calling | 560 (1-2, 5)

Man-Made Remedies

You might think, "Guess I'll have to try harder." But that won't remove sin or make you perfect.

You might determine that you will make up for each sin with a good deed. But that doesn't remove sin.

You might think, "I'm not perfect; but at least I'm better than many others." But God expects you to compare yourself to him and his perfect holiness.

ALL SUCH SELF-HELP EFFORTS ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE

God's Remedy

He sent his only Son into the world to become one of us

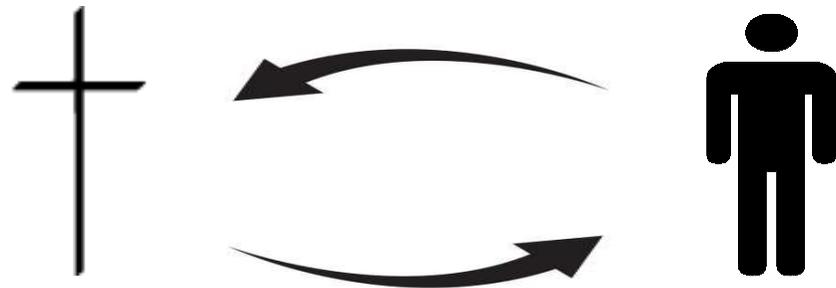
His Son lived a perfectly holy life—in our place

His Son died on a cross, paying the wages of sin in our place (*Isaiah 53:6—"the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all"*)

His Son rose from the grave, guaranteeing our forgiveness (*Romans 4:25—"He...was raised to life because of our justification"*)

God has credited the perfect life of Jesus and his death for sin to our account (*2 Corinthians 5:21—"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"*)

The result: we have the holiness and the removal of sin we need for life. What God requires of us God gives to us.



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 OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Lord God of our salvation, you have called us to be witnesses of the good news that in Christ the world has been reconciled to yourself. Inspire our witness that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the home of his resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

LESSON

Mark 5:18-20

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to stay with Jesus. ¹⁹ But Jesus would not let him. Instead, he told him, "Go home to your people, and tell them everything the Lord has done for you and how he had mercy on you."

²⁰ The man left and began to proclaim in the Decapolis everything Jesus had done for him. And everyone was amazed.

SERMON

Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit Makes Every Believer a Witness

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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.

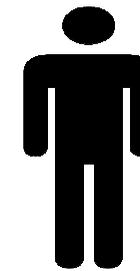
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

- Knowledge is “power”
- God’s Great Exchange

What God Demands

Leviticus 19:2 ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.

Matthew 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



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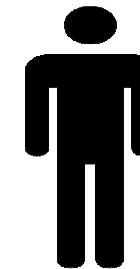
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What God Sees

Romans 3:23 all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Isaiah 59:2 your iniquities have separated you from your God

Romans 6:23 the wages of sin is death



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ONE BY ONE BIBLE STUDY

VIDEO *God Provides Courage to do What is Uncomfortable and Inconvenient*

CLARIFY

Jesus never said being his witness would be comfortable or convenient. But he did promise to give Christians the courage to do what is uncomfortable and inconvenient.

CONSIDER

- ⇒ Consider the question the chief asked Pastor Rosenau when they were in the duck blind that made it clear that Pastor Rosenau had let his light shine while serving as a detective.

- ⇒ Consider some ways you can let your light shine while living in 21st century America.

- ⇒ Consider how Pastor Rosenau demonstrated true love the day after the chief called him.

CONTEMPLATE

- What does it mean to be a witness?

- The Spirit works through the Word

**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

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!

THE PRAYERS

EVANGELISM PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P:** Dear Father in heaven, with the gift of a Savior you restored hope for our fallen world and brought glory to your name. We thank you for the good news that you have reconciled the world to yourself through your Son.
- C:** **Be with us as you give us opportunities to proclaim your glorious name of salvation in Jesus Christ our Savior.**
- P:** O Jesus, Lamb of God, we praise you for offering yourself as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all. On the cross you declared the sacrifice for sins completed. At the open tomb, you assured the world that sinners are reconciled to God.

C: Be with us as you have promised, so that we may be bold and confident witnesses to our family members and friends.

P: Holy Spirit, blessed Counselor, use your Word of Truth and power to break down the barriers to our witnesses, including fallen mankind's natural hatred for God and Satan's wicked work among us.

C: Empower us by your gospel, and encourage us to be faithful, fervent witnesses to the people among whom we live and work.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

P: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, send us by the power of your Word into the mission fields beyond the walls of our church. Give us hearing ears and seeing eyes that seize the opportunities you set before us to be your witnesses.

C: Guide us, strengthen us, and bless us as we declare Christ to our world.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we lift up our hearts with thanksgiving and praise. Through the blood of your covenant, you have made us worthy to receive your Holy Supper.

C: Rejoicing in your grace, we now come to this heavenly feast in which you give your children on earth your true body and blood to eat and to drink.

P: Remove from us the soiled garments of self-righteousness and sin, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with your blood.

C: Strengthen our faith, increase our love, and strengthen our dedication to live for you.

C: 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.

PERSONAL PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

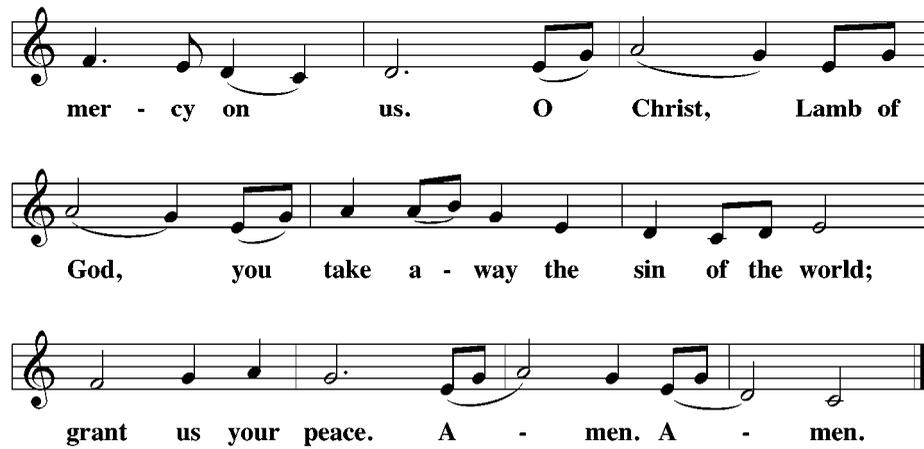
O Lord, We Praise You | 317

Please stand

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

In peace, Lord, you let your
ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for
ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



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.

PERSONAL PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your table. But you are a friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

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."

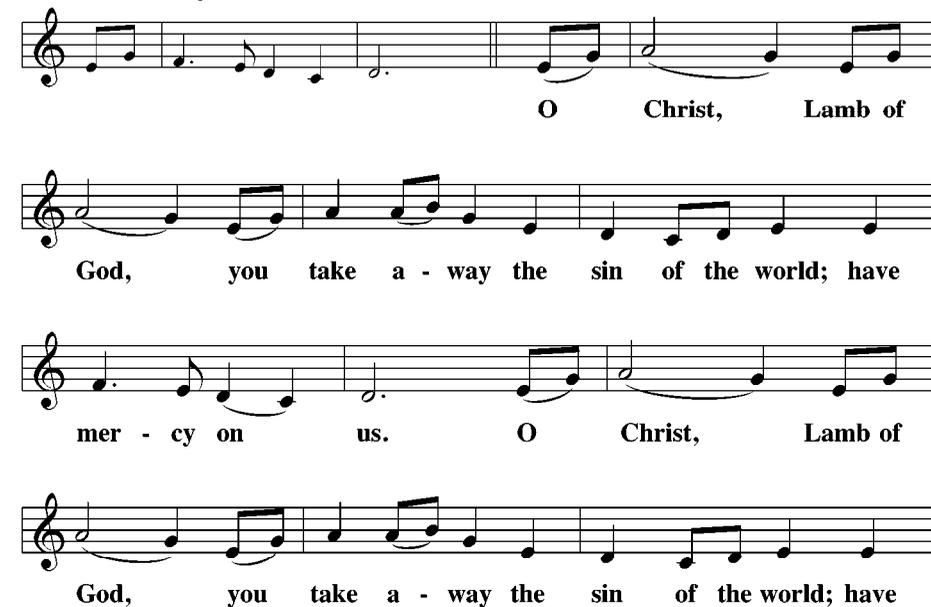
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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