



Acts of Faith

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Kewanee, Illinois

April 2007

Volume 7, Issue 4

Freed from Fear

This month we're privileged to again celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. As Christians have for the past two thousand years, we will either keep up this celebration until Christ returns or until we each, one-by-one, are called to heaven to be with him.

The real joy we have as Christians is that we don't have doubt about life everlasting in heaven and the resurrection of the body. As St. Paul told us, "*If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*" (1 Cor. 15:19-22).

We're freed from the sinful nature's fear of death, and are looking forward to a glorious eternity.

With that in mind, we should also have no fear or hesitation about planning for the time of our death, specifically planning for our funeral.

Making pre-arrangements with a local funeral home frees your loved-ones from having to deal with all the details regarding a funeral when they're also grieving your loss. The funeral directors will also get information from you regarding your family background which may be included in the obituary. Again, this frees your family member from having to scramble to find this information in the brief period between a death and the funeral.

You are also encouraged to make suggestions to the church regarding your funeral service. If you have Scripture readings or hymns which are especially meaningful to you this helps the pastor in planning for your funeral. Your suggestions will be kept in the church office so that no matter who the pastor is at the time of your funeral, these suggestions will be available.

Please keep in mind that a funeral service is a Christian worship service which gives thanks to God for the gift of salvation and everlasting life through the suffering death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The funeral service isn't a time to glorify the deceased, but to glorify his/her Creator. With this in mind, the pastor is the one in charge of the funeral service. Any suggestions you make for your funeral will be evaluated by the pastor in light of the overall nature of Christian worship. Some hymns, poems, readings, etc. may not be appropriate during the worship service. The good variety of hymns found in the *Lutheran Service Book* will provide an ample source of ideas for hymns to use during your funeral. In addition, some of your suggestions for your funeral may be more appropriately used during the reception following the funeral rather than during the funeral service itself. If you have any questions about what is appropriate, you're encouraged to meet with me.

All those officiating at funerals in an LCMS church are to be clergy who are in fellowship with the LCMS. And, of course, a Christian funeral is for those who are part of the Christian church. Just as military funeral honors can't be given to someone who has never served in the military, so a Christian funeral can't be given to those who aren't part of the Christian church.

The Easter joy that we have as Christians is that we *are* freed from the fear of death, and can live in confidence as God's children.

Blessings,
Pastor Fischer

April's Calendar

- April 01** Palm Sunday
Rite of Confirmation
- April 05 Maundy Thursday Worship, 7 PM.
- April 06 Good Friday Worship, 7 PM.
- April 08** Easter Sunday
- April 11 Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM.
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- April 12 Building Committee, 7 PM
- April 15** 2nd Sunday of Easter
Voters' Meeting
Faith leads worship at
Courtyard Estates, 3 PM
- April 16-18** District Pastors' Conference,
Peoria.
- April 17 Women of Faith, 1 PM
- April 18 Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- April 19 Evangelism Committee, 6:30 PM
- April 22** 3rd Sunday of Easter
- April 25 Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM.
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- April 26 Building Committee, 7 PM
- April 29** 4th Sunday of Easter
Youth Group, 6 PM

A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the Fourth Commandment, to "Honor your father and your mother," she asked "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

Bring In Your Old Inkjet Cartridges

Your old inkjet printer cartridges are worth money to the Lutheran Women Missionary League (LWML). Please bring your old cartridges to church where a box is available for them. Contact Cheryl Snyder if you have any questions.

Church Building Dedication

The worship service dedicating our new church building will be Sunday, May 20th, 3:00 PM.

A reception and catered meal will follow the Dedication Service.

Please watch the bulletins and May newsletter for further information.

Me, a Pastor? Me, a Deaconess?

If you have found yourself asking this question or have ever considered studying to be a pastor or deaconess, now is the time to do something about it! Rev. Tom Zimmerman of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana is going to be at St. John's Lutheran Church, East Moline, on Wednesday, April 11th from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. Come and explore the possibility. Conferences are individual and informal. Reservations are not needed. If you can't make that meeting, you may phone or E-mail Rev. Zimmerman to arrange another time to meet with him: 260-452-2100 or zimmermantp@ctsfw.edu

Baptism

On February 28th we were pleased to welcome into the family of God Addyson Jo Hicks, infant daughter of Tara and Lee Hicks.

"We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" Romans 6:4.

Women of Faith

The monthly Women of Faith meeting will be Tuesday, April 17th, 1 PM, at the church. Nancy Tudder and Jeri Helmkamp will be the hostesses. Vary Fischer will do the devotion. The guest speaker will be Chris Fauser, who will do a program concerning her wheelchair donation project. All women in the congregation are invited to attend the meeting.

MITES OVER THE TOP!

All praise to God! As of Tuesday, March 27, the LWML reached—and surpassed—its mission goal for the 2005-2007 biennium. Final figures are not yet available, but this is a time of rejoicing. Any mites received by March 31 will also be counted toward the 2005-2007 biennium goal.

As LWML President Linda Reiser says, *“God loves to take ordinary people like you and me and through them do extraordinary things!”* *“For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure”* (Phil. 2:13).

REGISTER NOW FOR CONVENTION

Register for the 2007 LWML convention. Send the forms in as soon as possible. Only four months to go! The song leader for the convention will be Dina Vendetti, an energetic and exciting Lutheran School principal and teacher. The Prairies will ring with song, so come join in. The place to be June 21-24 is Sioux Falls, South Dakota. See you there! For more information, visit www.lwml.org.

TEENS “ROCK” IN SIOUX FALLS!!

Are you between the ages of 11-17? Do you like “hanging out” with the girls? If you answered “YES,” we want to see you at the Friends Into Serving Him Teen “Hangout” on Saturday, June 23. Teens will make new friends from across the country while participating in wild and crazy fun activities! Service, spiritual growth, and leadership are the focus of this awesome time together. Mark your calendar and plan to “Rest on Christ the King” in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Again, more info is at www.lwml.org.

Confirmation

We’re pleased to be Confirming two young people this Palm Sunday, April 1st. The confirmands are:

- Jenny Leezer, daughter of Mike & Paula Leezer
- Cal Breedlove, son of Bill & LaJean Breedlove.

Please keep these young people in your prayers, and lend your support in any way which will assist them to remain faithful to their Confirmation vows.

“Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Revelation 2:10

April Voters Meeting Scheduled

The Second Quarter Voters’ Meeting is scheduled for April 15th, following our Sunday service.

Holy Week Services

You’re encouraged to participate in all the Holy Week opportunities for worship which will be offered this month:

- April 1st Palm Sunday 9:00 AM
- April 5th Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM
- April 6th Good Friday 7:00 PM
- April 8th Easter Sunday 9:00 AM

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lacey Leezer	4/04
Andrew Yarger	4/04
Marcelena Godke	4/07
Yancy Gillespie	4/10
Lauri Grabbe	4/10
Otto Schwefel	4/10
Peggy Faber	4/12
Raymond Heinrich	4/15
Lorie Townsend	4/15
Abigail Clapper	4/16
Vanda Hallock	4/17
Carol Wells	4/18
Layne Tharp	4/21
Robert Godke	4/22
Kelly Gillespie	4/25
Larry Gillespie	4/25
Marlin Gillespie	4/28

Anniversaries

Peggy & Steven Faber	4/03
Sandra & Nicholas Phillips	4/08
Marcelene & Robert Godke	4/11
Carol & James Cook	4/16
Nancy & James Tudder	4/27
GervaDean & Robert Weber	4/30

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM-Sundays
Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School, 10:15 A.M.

7:00 PM Wednesdays

Rev. Robert Fischer-Pastor

309-852-2787 (Church Phone)

309-853-5394 (Home Phone)

309-714-1181 (Cell Phone)



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

PO Box 647

Kewanee, Illinois 61443-0647

Address Correction Requested

Christ is risen!
As He lives, we shall also!

Thanks for the Pew Help!

Thank you to all who helped move the donated pews from Yorktown to our church on March 18th, a very rainy Saturday. There was an excellent turnout of helpers who supplied muscle, vehicles, trailers, pads, and refreshments.

Thank you also to the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Yorktown, who very generously donated these 28 Oak pews to us when it became necessary to close their congregation.

Volunteer Appreciation Month

Throughout the United States, April is *Volunteer Appreciation Month*. Here, at Faith, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered to serve the congregation; and in turn, have served our Lord. **This year especially, we thank all those who volunteered to assist with the church construction, and those who are still helping out!**

We thank everyone else who helped in the following areas (in alphabetical order):

- Altar Guild
- Building Committee
- Bulletin
- Choir
- Church Council
- Church Grounds & Building Upkeep
- Church Records
- Contributions
- Elders
- Finance Committee
- Financial Records
- Newsletter
- Prayer
- Refreshments
- Secretarial Duties
- Sound System
- Sunday School
- Women of Faith
- Ushering
- Web Site

(And anyone we might have missed.)

Church Etiquette

With the death last month of Kewanee etiquette expert, Marjabelle Stewart, we were reminded of the importance of etiquette in everyday life.

There is social etiquette, business etiquette, and even golf etiquette—all of which is based on mutual respect, and respect for those in positions of authority. Thus, it's no surprise that there is church etiquette, which has its basis on respect for the *ultimate* Authority—the Triune God. As St. Paul wrote, during worship "*all things should be done decently and in order*" (1Cor. 14:40). Sounds like etiquette!

Now is an especially appropriate time for us at Faith to address this as we begin worshipping in our own church sanctuary. As we leave the narthex and come into the sanctuary for worship, we should enter quietly and reverently; giving brief greetings as necessary, but not carrying on extended conversations. We prepare ourselves for worship, and don't disturb the preparations of others who are reading the prayers for worship (as found in the front of the hymnal), the Scripture lessons for the day (as printed in the bulletins), or are having their own quiet thoughts and meditations prior to worship.

Arriving for worship on time is also proper etiquette so as not to disrupt those already worshipping as you get yourselves seated and find the proper place in the hymnal.

Of course, bringing coffee, cookies, or doughnuts into the sanctuary isn't appropriate prior to, during, or after worship.

All the above are simple, common-sense guidelines, but that's what most of etiquette is, isn't it?