



Acts of Faith

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



April 2010

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True Health Care Reform

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives are working-out the details of the newly-passed Health Care Reform legislation, and the LCMS has issued a preliminary report on that legislation (which is printed on page 5 of this newsletter).

However, there's still much that needs to be said about *true* health care reform, and we get good guidance from God's gracious Word.

Consider the inspired words of David in Psalm 103: *"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."*

Nowhere in even the ambitious Federal health care reform proposal is there talk about *"all"* our diseases being healed, and our *"youth being renewed like the eagle's."*

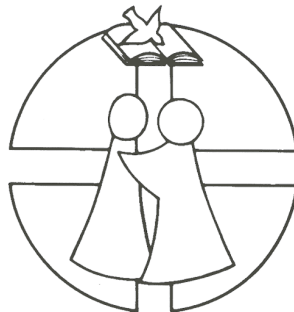
But, it isn't just David who is incredibly optimistic about God's health care reform. The prophet Jeremiah wrote the following words of God, *"For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal," declares the LORD* (Jer. 30:17). Not even Nancy Pelosi was so enthusiastic about the subject of health care reform!

However, the big concern about the Federal health care reform proposal is the enormous cost. *God's* health care reform proposal promises *complete* healing and health. So, how much is *that* going to cost?

Again, it's a much better deal than the Federal health proposal because it doesn't cost *us* anything.

But, that doesn't mean that it's *without* cost. No—the cost is very great indeed. *Our* perfect healing and life comes at the cost of the suffering and death of God's *Son*, Jesus Christ.

We face health problems, and even death, because of the sin which we inherited from our first parents, and by our *own* sins. That's why David wrote in Psalm 38, *"There is no soundness in my flesh because of the LORD'S indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin."* We will have *eternal health* because Jesus earned *forgiveness* of all our sins by taking them all to the cross and paying for them completely there. Thus, the Lord is no longer indignant with us, but loves us as His children.



And, at Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, which is the assurance that *we too* will rise from death with glorified—perfectly *healthy*—bodies.

But, what about our health problems *between* now and our resurrection? Is earthly hope and help to be found only in Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid? No, again, we find even *better* help in God's Word. Solomon wrote, *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.* (Prov. 3:5-8)

If you want the spiritual strength which will carry through the physical (and fiscal!) problems of this world, come and worship the Lord with all your heart! Acknowledge His great love for you which He expressed through the perfect life, the suffering and death, and the resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ!

Pastor Fischer

Holy Week & Easter Services "Life Together"



The theme of our Midweek Lenten Services, "Life Together," will continue with our Holy Week and Easter worship services:

- April 1, 7 PM, Maundy Thursday Communion Service
- April 2, 7 PM, Good Friday Worship Service
- April 4, 7:45-8:30 AM, Easter Breakfast
- April 4, 9:00 AM, Easter Worship Service

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Thank You to the Cooks!

Special thanks to the Hosting Teams who provided the suppers prior to the 2010 Midweek Lenten Services. There was wonderful food and beautiful fellowship!



- Feb. 17th— Sharon Larson, Karen Adkison, Mona Kubiak, Elaine Price.
- Feb. 24th— Randy Stockner, Milt Stapel, Bill Croegaert, Bob Snyder, Matt Peed
- Mar. 3rd— Mary Duncan, Laura Heinrich, Heidi Heinrich
- Mar. 10th— Marilyn & Ted Sturtevant
- Mar. 17th— Cindy Ganshow, Vary Fischer
- Mar. 24th— Mary & Gary Hahn



Greeting Card Making

Please come and help make greeting cards for our Craft Sales. No artistic talent is required, just the ability to use scissors and glue. We meet in the church Fellowship Hall the first Tuesday of every month, 9:00 AM. This month's card-making session will be April 6th.

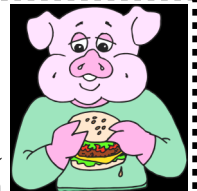
April's Calendar

- April 01 Maundy Thursday Worship, 7 PM
- April 02 Good Friday Worship, 7 PM
- April 04 Easter Breakfast, 7:45-8:30 AM
- April 06 **Easter Sunday Worship, 9 AM**
Greeting Card Making, 9 AM
Adult Information Class, 7 PM
- April 07 No Midweek Worship Service.
- April 11 **2nd Sunday of Easter**
Worship services at:
Royal Oaks, 2 PM
Kewanee Care, 3 PM
- April 12 Voters' Meeting, 7 PM
- April 13 Adult Information Class, 7 PM
- April 14 Midweek Worship Service, 7 PM
- April 15 Salad & Pork Sandwich Supper, 4:30-6:30 PM
- April 18 **3rd Sunday of Easter**
- April 18-20 Pastor at District Pastors' Conf., Springfield.
- April 20 Women of Faith, 1 PM
Marriage Enrichment Class, 7 PM
- April 21 Midweek Worship Service, 7 PM
- April 22 Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM
Church Council, 7:30 PM
- April 25 **4th Sunday of Easter**
- April 27 Marriage Enrichment Class, 7 PM
- April 28 Midweek Worship Service, 7 PM
- April 29 Community Meal Meeting, St. Peter's, 7 PM

Wednesday Midweek Service Changes

Please note that there will be no Wednesday night worship services on March 31st (Holy Week), or on April 7th (the Wednesday following Easter).

"Famous" Pork Sandwich Supper



Our congregation will be serving a Pork Sandwich & Salad Supper on Thursday, April 15th, 4:30-6:30 PM, featuring our "famous" pork sandwich! Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, and \$3.00 for children 8 and under.. Desserts and carry-outs will be available. Please plan on attending, and on selling tickets to your friends, neighbors, and co-workers.



Join us on Saturday, May 1st, for a church “Spring Cleaning.” All come—please bring some cleaning supplies: buckets, ladders, rags, etc.) We’ll start about 8:00 am, but you’re welcome to show up any time which is convenient to you.

“Pay Off Mortgage” (P.O.M) Report

Thank you to all those who have been making regular contributions toward paying for our building, especially those who have made pledges to pay a certain amount which we can count on in the future.

Any contributions, large or small, will help serve to reach our goal of completely paying for our building in as short an amount of time as possible. This will reduce the total interest amount which would otherwise be paid if we do not pay ahead of schedule .



Women of Faith

Women of Faith will meet Tuesday, April 20th, 1:00 PM, at Mary Ozburn’s home (316 Franklin St.). The guest speaker will be Diane Mueller, of Bethesda Lutheran Homes.

April Voters’ Meeting Scheduled

The Second Quarter Voters’ Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12th, 7:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan on attending.



Volunteer Appreciation Month

Throughout the United States, April is *Volunteer Appreciation Month*. Here, at Faith, we take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered to serve the congregation; and in turn, have served our Lord.

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

- Altar Guild
- Advertising Committee
- Bulletin
- Choir
- Church Council
- Church Grounds & Building Upkeep
- Church Records
- Contributions
- Decorating Committee
- Elders
- Finance Committee
- Financial Records
- Newsletter
- P.O.M. Committee
- Prayer
- Refreshments
- Secretarial Duties
- Sound System
- Sunday School, Bible Classes
- Women of Faith
- Ushering
- Vacation Bible School
- Web Site

(And anyone we might have missed.)



Will They Always Be There?



Will we always have a sufficient number of pastors and teachers to fill our congregations and schools? Will we always have a sufficient number of DCE's and DCO's to serve the needs of our churches, schools and service organizations?

The Central Illinois District Foundation asks this question at each of its meetings. We have been truly blessed in this District. There is a funded endowment that provides some of the needed assistance for these students. The District LWML annually provides a sum of money to be granted to these students. And there is, of course, the Clara and Spencer Werner Foundation that has traditionally provided a large amount for distribution to our CID students. The Central Illinois District has consistently been a leader in Synod at providing these grants, but there is much more we can do.

Even with these grants, many church work students are coming out of school with college debt in the \$40-\$50,000 range. Add to that an additional \$30-\$40,000 in debt from the seminary training, and you can see how our church workers are burdened with an enormous responsibility as they come into the "field" to serve the Lord.

Currently, the CID Endowment Fund has principal of just over \$800,000, which will yield around \$35-\$40,000 in available grants each year. It is the goal of the CID Foundation to increase the size of the Fund to around \$3,000,000. A conservative rate of return on this would provide \$150,000 per year and allow many, if not all, of our students to be able to graduate and begin work with only minimal debt.

What can you do to help? Scholarship Sunday in the CID will be the first Sunday in May. Special offering envelopes will be provided the preceding Sunday. Please do what you can to provide for our future church workers. *"Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do. On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come."* (1 Cor. 16:1-2)

The Power of "WE"



Making Good Marriages Better!

Whether you're planning your wedding or have celebrated numerous anniversaries, every relationship has both good and bad patterns. *The Power of WE* is a new video-based, six-session Bible study founded on concepts from renowned Christian counselor Dr. David Ludwig. Good and bad moods build up over time, and Dr. Ludwig calls them "Freeze Dried Moods." Learn through this upbeat course how to store up the good moods with better understanding and appropriate touch, and tear down the bad moods with prayer, confession, and forgiveness. Each session offers:

- ◆ Video dramas of three married couples that will make you think about (and sometimes laugh) about your own relationship. An older couple who've been around the block a few times throw in their two cents and some comic relief to help you apply what you've seen.
- ◆ Bible references help you realize the importance of prayer in your relationship and give suggestions to strengthen your marriage—like establishing a "grace place," as well as other realistic strategies to build the "WE."
- ◆ Group discussions and participant's books help you interact and learn from other couples and give you ideas on what to change and improve in your own relationship.
- ◆ At-home activities to deal with realistic everyday issues like money, conflicts with in-laws, sex, and more.

The Power of WE explains that while opposites often attract, they communicate differently—which leads to misunderstandings. Learn how you can better understand your soul-mate and experience the power of "WE."

The six sessions will be offered Tuesday nights, 7:00-8:30 PM, beginning April 20th, at Faith Lutheran Church. To register, send a check or money order for \$25.00 per couple to:

Faith Lutheran Church
620 Hepner Dr.
Kewanee IL 61443-1202

For more information, please contact Pastor Fischer.

LCMS Issues Statement on Health-Care Reform



As most are aware, on March 21st, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Senate version of a 10-year, \$940 billion restructuring of the U.S. health-care system. A subsequent vote adopted a companion bill that would make modifications to the Senate bill, thus making the final bill more palatable to the House. This “reconciliation” bill of “fix it” changes then would need approval again by the Senate.

This historic piece of legislation will guarantee near-universal insurance coverage of American citizens. Beyond that, it will require people to buy coverage, call for the creation of state-based insurance “exchanges” or marketplaces, prohibit insurance companies from denying coverage for preexisting conditions, and impose higher taxes to bolster Medicare and other programs.

Clearly these sweeping new laws will have far-reaching ramifications, the extent of which, at this early date, cannot be known. It seems apparent there will be challenges to the new legislation—perhaps even attempts to repeal it—at both the federal and state levels.

One area of particular concern for the LCMS regarding this legislation centers on the sanctity of life. To allay the concerns of pro-life advocates, President Obama has promised to issue an executive order ensuring that no federal monies will go toward the provision of abortions. Some groups, however, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the National Right to Life Committee, have expressed strong doubts that an executive order truly will accomplish this. For its part, the LCMS, a staunchly pro-life church body supporting the protection of human life from conception through death, cannot support or endorse any portion of the new law that allows government funding, even indirectly, for abortions.

Another area of key importance to the LCMS is the possible effect of the new legislation on the Synod’s Church Plan, particularly those parts of our Concordia Plan Services that deal with the health benefits of our church workers and their families. The Board of Directors and the executive staff of Concordia Plan Services (CPS) have been studying vigilantly the implications of the new health-care legislation on the Synod’s ability to take care of its workers and their families. At this point, CPS leaders cannot possibly have all the answers or anticipate all the ramifications of the new law. They will be scrutinizing developments as they unfold and reporting in timely fashion to their constituents.

In many respects, this statement is preliminary in nature. There are too many factors yet to materialize, too many unknowns, for the church to issue any sort of comprehensive commentary at this point. That being said, most people acknowledge that the nation’s health-care system needs improvement. The main points of contention have been how best to reform the system and how to fund such reforms. Christians of good heart and conscience can disagree about many aspects of these issues. We encourage Christians to be engaged actively in these discussions and debates as concerned citizens who care deeply about the health and life of our nation and all of its citizens. We also pray that the legitimate political debates regarding such issues will not intrude into congregational life and teaching in ways that detract from the church’s unique mission of proclaiming the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The LCMS has been about the business of helping the less fortunate, in countless ways through a myriad of channels, since our founding some 163 years ago. We will continue in this. Compassionate care and prayer will remain foundational in our life as the church as we respond to the health care and spiritual needs of those around us. Long before health insurance and government-related health-care programs began, the Christian Church understood her responsibility to care for those in need. *“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the leaders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord”* (James 5:14). We care for others because God first loved us in Christ Jesus (1 John 4:19).

May our Lord grant our nation and its leaders wisdom as the process of health-care reform unfolds.

(March 23, 2010)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lacey Leezer	4/04
Andrew Yarger	4/04
Marcelene Godke	4/07
Yancy Gillespie	4/10
Lauri Cochran	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
Layne Tharp	4/21
Robert Godke	4/22
Kelly Gillespie	4/25
Larry Gillespie	4/25
Marlin Gillespie	4/28
Sharon Field	4/29

Anniversaries

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM-Sundays
Sunday School, Adult Bible Class, 10:30 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)

E-mail: pastor@faithkewanee.org

Web Site: www.faithkewanee.org

Faith Lutheran Church

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Address Correction Requested



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