



Acts of Faith

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



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Alleluia He Has Risen: Ever get the feeling that everything in our world is upside down? God’s Word is being ignored while hatred and evil seem to flourish. Illness and death are rampant and headline the daily news. Well, don’t feel alone. Many people feel the same. More than that, centuries ago the picture was just as bleak. The times in which the Old Testament prophets lived were also gloomy days for God’s people.

During that period, the Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to Assyrian invaders (722 B.C.). Jerusalem, capital of the Southern Kingdom of Judah, was destroyed by the Babylonians (586 B.C.). For 70 years the Jews lived in exile in Babylon. Eventually, most were allowed to return to their homeland. Yet their land never again attained the glory it had enjoyed under the kings David and Solomon. Most tragic of all, the prophets preached among a spiritually bankrupt people. Unbelief, greed, injustice, dishonesty, adultery, broken homes, and even child sacrifice were the order of the day. The prophets’ times were not unlike our own. Yet, amid such darkness, God’s chosen prophets were beacons of hope. While they warned the ungodly, they also comforted believers.

Then in the New Testament, in John 3:16, Jesus Himself summed up the Good News for all ages: “*God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*” As we approach Easter, we are made witnesses of this great love. And even though it was our sins which also put Jesus on that cross, God continues to forgive us, bless us, and sanctify us. And to all of us who believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, He promises resurrection and eternal life. When the Scriptures speak of the resurrection of Jesus it is not proclaimed in a symbolic way. It is not a mere metaphor for new birth. We believe, teach, and confess the truth that Christ literally and physically shattered death by rising from the grave. Why does that matter? The true Jesus now lives to intercede on our behalf. *Consequently, He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.* Hebrews 7:25

What a joy it is, that even while there is chaos and change happening in the world, we can still keep our eyes on Jesus, the founder and protector of our faith. We pray for God’s continued blessing as we come together to share the celebration of dying and rising in Christ on Resurrection Sunday; knowing He gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sin! ***He is risen, He is Risen indeed, Halleluiah.***



Here I Stand: On April 18th Lutherans across the nation will celebrate “Here I Stand” Sunday, a special 500th-anniversary observance endorsed by delegates to the 2019 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



Encouraged by the confession of Dr. Martin Luther, we gladly bring to mind the truth that to gather in the Lord’s name and around His Holy Word and Sacrament is to be joined always to the full number of saints — both around the world and in eternity. On April 18, 1521, Martin Luther stood before Emperor Charles V to give his final reply at a formal deliberative assembly called the Diet of Worms. That day, before the Holy Roman emperor and a host of theologians and spectators, a once no-name monk from a tiny, insignificant German town stood and confessed, “I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen” (LW 32:112–13).

April's Calendar

- Apr. 01 **Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 PM
with Holy communion**
- Apr. 02 **Good Friday Service 6:30 PM**
- Apr. 04 **Easter Festival
with Holy communion**
- Apr. 11 **Second Sunday of Easter
with Holy communion**
- Apr. 18 **Third Sunday of Easter
with Holy communion**
- Apr. 20 Elders and Council Mtgs. 6:30 & 7:00 PM
- Apr. 22 WOF mtg. 10:00 AM
- Apr. 25 **Fourth Sunday of Easter
with Holy communion**

Worship Schedule

9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service
Adult Bible Class, 10:15 A.M.

Altar Guild Schedule

April 01	Kari Tavares	Purple
April 02	Mary Hahn	Black
April 04	Sharon Larson	White
April 11	Leah Weber	White
April 18	Kari Tavares	White
April 25	Marilyn Sturtevant	White

Elders List:

Wayne Becker: 309-853-8783
Kevin Hull: 309-852-0801
Ron Larson: 309-853-5111
Ted Sturtevant: 309-853-8203

April – June Portals of Prayer are now available in the Narthex. Please take one for yourself and one for a friend.

Those For Whom We Pray: Please include the following in your thoughts and daily prayers.

Our Faith family: Allison Leezer, Cari Bridgewater, Nancy Tudder, Cheryl Snyder, John J. Hernandez, JoAnn Behnke, and Lorie Elgin.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Kent West, Bob Miller, Cindy Stapel, Sgt. Billy Steele, Katie Yarger, and all military personnel and first responders.

CID: Our campus, prison, deaf, and Hispanic missions in the District need your prayers and support.

Inactive Members: Pray the Holy Spirit bring them to the understanding of their need to be in regular worship in church on Sunday, and that we as their brothers and sisters in Christ would reach out to them.

Our World: That Lord of all will bring healing to those who are sick, comfort to those who mourn, care for those who tend and care for the ill, and bring an end to the spread of this virus.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



Prayer Requests: Have someone or something that you would like Pastor to include in either his personal prayers or in our public Prayer of the Church on Sunday morning, please fill out a prayer request, place in an envelope, and leave it in the office or hand it to Pastor.

REMEMBER: Please contact the office and inform us of any changes of name, address, marital status, e-mail address, home phone, or cell phone.

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Mary Duncan. Mary's husband, Pee Wee Duncan, died on March 18, 2021. This has been an extremely difficult year for Mary, and we ask God through the Holy Spirit to give her peace and comfort in her losses.

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Psalm 23:1



Birthdays
of the
Month

April 1 Emma Cox
 April 4 Lacey Leezer
 April 4 Andrew Yarger
 April 10 Yancy Gillespie
 April 10 Heather Weber
 April 12 Peggy Faber
 April 14 Rev. Paul Weber
 April 15 Lorie Townsend
 April 16 Abigail Clapper

April 17 Vanda Hallock
 April 21 Logan Hernandez
 April 25 Kelly Gillespie
 April 25 Larry Gillespie
 April 28 Marlin Gillespie

Wedding Anniversaries

Peggy and Steven Faber April 3
 Sandra and Nicholas Phillips April 8
 Carol and James Cook April 16

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

Station	City, State	Freq.	Day & Time
WKEI	Kewanee, IL	1450 AM	Sun 5:30 AM

Baptism Dates

Joy Hernandez Butler	Apr. 4
Julie Carpenter	Apr. 19
Abigail Clapper	Apr. 27
Mary Duncan	Apr. 21
Michael Estes	Apr. 16
Charles Heinrich	Apr. 23
Jaxson Hicks	Apr. 20
Marvin Newman	Apr. 20
Milton Stapel	Apr. 5
Kari Tavares	Apr. 1

Women of Faith: The ladies will meet on Thursday, April 22, at 10:00 AM. Nancy Tudder is the hostess and everyone should bring their brown bag lunch.



This month WOF are collecting mites to support the LWML Mission Grant #21 for the 2019–2021 biennium, LCMS Deaconess Ministry — LCMS Office of International Mission. Your mites will provide educational and financial support to the deaconess training programs to our partner churches in the Philippines, Latvia, Liberia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India. Thank you so much for your contributions to spread God's Word.

New Address: Jacob Hernandez, son of Peggy Faber, has been deployed with the Air Force to South Africa for the next seven months. I am sure he would appreciate our prayers and correspondence during this time. His address is:

John J. Hernandez/EABS
 PSC 831 Box 0205
 FPO, AE 09363

God bless him and his family. Keep them all safe and healthy.



Thank you for donating Easter Lilies to adorn our Sanctuary for Easter:



Ron and Sharon Larson	Price & Larson Families
Sandy Heinrich	My Wonderful Husband
Gary and Mary Hahn	Loved Ones
Sue Cervantez	Mom and Dad
Ted and Marilyn Sturtevant	Loved Ones
Debra Fronk	Loved Ones
Kari Tavares	Loved Ones
Mike and Paula Leezer	Loved Ones

Bible Study: Pastor is ready to resume Sunday Bible Study if everyone is vaccinated and willing to attend. Hopefully, we can begin shortly.

The LifeLight Bible study group will resume with a study of Isaiah Part 1 on May 3rd at one o'clock. If you are interested in attending this 9 week session please let Gary Hahn know. We will be socially distanced, but not masked.



At a Lutheran church in Minnesota at the Easter Service it can usually be heard.

Pastor: "He is Risen!"

Congregation: "He is Risen, You Bettcha!"

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. His atoning sacrifice is the first fruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father, so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him. He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood.

As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word. By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine" (Prov. 3:9-10). How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that, in so doing, you will never lack.

A common counterpoint is: "But that's from the Old Testament!" Our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents: "For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance" (Matt. 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money" (Luke 16:10-13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matt. 6:19-21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings. It's no quid pro quo. It's all from God's grace and His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages do in fact say what they say! It's not the Old Testament's problem. It's ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Mal. 3:10).

And so, while we don't give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. As St. Paul wrote in Rom. 8:32: "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (*LCMS Stewardship*)