



Acts of Faith

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



August 2018

Volume 18 Issue 8

Vacancy Pastor : Rev. Chris Bushre

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Sign For The Times:

During my vicarage year of seminary in 2001-2002, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in O'Fallon, Missouri, I made a hospital call on a sick member. It was a Catholic hospital, and, as I was leaving, I noticed a sign in the hospital lobby. It read:

“Sorrow looks back,
Worry looks around,
Faith looks up.”

In my mind, I quickly added: “Hope looks forward.”

I think this sign, along with what my brain added, fits us well in our current worldly, national, and personal situations. There is constantly the threat of violence, both home and abroad, from terrorists or people who've just “snapped.” And, as Christians, we fight to keep our religious liberties in an increasingly non-Christian nation. On top of that, we have our own struggles of budgets, relationships, sickness, and, sadly, death.

We're looking back with sorrow on world events over the last 17 years, ever since September 11, 2001. So many people were lost that day, and, since then, it seems conflicts, terrorism, and crazy people who shoot up schools and businesses have just come crawling out of the woodwork. We mourn the people and the innocence lost, and try to make sense of it all.

We're looking around us in worry. How are we going to make ends meet? Will I ever get back to full health? I feel so lonely. What will happen to our family, to our country? Where will we live? How will we survive? What kind of world will my children and grandchildren have to live in? Life is full of worry around every turn.

But, as Christians, we look up in faith. These tragedies are terrible, and they seem pointless to us, but God has a plan. He has a purpose in all this. What that purpose is we don't know, but Romans 8:28 reminds us, “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” We can trust Him. He knows what He's doing, even if we don't.

And lastly, as Christians, we look forward in hope because of what happened in the past. Christ gave His life so we might have eternal life. We look forward to when He comes again. That day will signal the end of all our pain and suffering. Because of what Christ did for us, the last day will be joyous for all believers. When Christ sets up the perfect New World for all the believers at the Resurrection, we know that our pain will be done, and that we have peace for eternity with all believers, and with the One who died so we might live.

In this time of suffering we struggle, but we're not alone, nor are we directionless. Look up in faith, and look forward in hope, because of our Lord Jesus, who gave His life in the past so we might have a future. God's blessings to you and yours.

In Christ, Pastor Bushre

July 4th Concessions: A big thank you to all those who helped with and/or donated drinks, popcorn supplies, and baked goodies for the concession booth at the church on July 4th evening. Despite an early rain shower, the fireworks were spectacular and we had a good crowd on the lawn and in the parking area. Special thanks to Zion Lutheran Church and Kewanee Park District for loaning us their popcorn machines. Proceeds netted \$118 for the effort.



Worship Schedule
 5:00 PM, Saturday Worship Service
 with Adult Bible Class, 4:00 PM

August's Calendar

Aug 04 11th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship with Holy Communion
 Bible Class at 4:00 PM

Aug 09 WOF Meeting 10 AM

Aug 11 12th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship with Holy Communion
 Bible Class at 4:00 PM

Aug 18 13th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship with Holy Communion
 Bible Class 4:00 PM
 Elders Mtg. 2:30 PM
 Council Mtg. 3:00 PM

Aug 25 14th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship with Holy Communion
 Bible Class 4:00 PM

There will be no Sunday School during August.

Altar Guild Schedule

Aug 04	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
Aug 11	Mary Hahn	Green
Aug 18	Kari Tavares	Green
Aug 25	Sharon Larson	Green

Weekly Ushers:

1st Week: Ray Heinrich & Kevin Hull
 2nd Week: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
 3rd Week: Nick Philips & Randy Stockner
 4th Week: Mike Leezer & Wendell Hier
 5th Week: Kevin Hull & Ted Sturtevant

Elders List:

Wayne Becker: 309-853-8783
 Kevin Hull: 309-852-0801
 Ron Larson: 309-853-5111
 Mike Leezer: 309-286-3014
 Ted Sturtevant: 309-853-8203
 Wendell Hier 309-853-8388

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

If you have an article, a thank you, an idea, a suggestion, or a request for the next newsletter, give the information to the church office or send an e-mail to hahn.gary@comcast.net before August 26, 2018

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

Our Faith family: Pastor Weber and family, Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Lois Novotny, Joyce Long, Mona Kubiak, and Bonnie Nuding.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Judi Umbarger, and our troops abroad.



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

The Trinity Season: by Pastor James Stuenkel

The church calendar has us right in the midst of the long Trinity season. The paraments and pastors' stole will be green for a few more months. What a joyous time to reflect on the teachings of our Christian faith. I particularly think *Why I am a Lutheran* by Daniel Preus would be a great read this summer. Pastor Preus makes a personal point of reminding us Jesus is at the center of our Lutheran identity. For example as to getting into one of our teachings, after a recent discussion of the Lord's Supper, I was asked about the phrase we as Lutherans often use to explain the real presence of Christ's body and blood "in, with and under" the bread and wine in the Sacrament. The Words of Institution affirm the presence of body and blood (Matthew 26: 26-28), and when we read I Corinthians 10:16, those words affirm the union (ESV) or participation (NIV) of the cup and the bread with the body and blood of Christ. Even though we cannot describe how, the body and blood are present in the Sacrament. A miracle! The words in, with and under do not completely describe the how of the presence, they merely emphasize the presence is real. Lord, grant that our days be filled with reminders of Your mercy; we praise You for the forgiveness, life and salvation won for us by Jesus' life, death and resurrection and brought to us by faith through the Sacrament of the Altar. In Jesus' name. Amen

August Birthdays

August 3 Mona Kubiak
August 3 Randy Stockner
August 5 Heidi Heinrich
August 6 Mark Tudder
August 10 Layne Stapel
August 12 Jemma Cade
August 16 Laura Heinrich
August 21 Jack Breedlove
August 25 Erin Travares

August Baptism Dates

Jack Breedlove 8/31
Lauri Cochran 8/15
Jonathon Estes 8/24

Wedding Anniversaries

August 2 Joe & Sue Cervantez
August 9 Jeffrey & Laura Heinrich
August 10 Kari & Joe Tavares

Women of Faith will be meeting on Thursday, August 9th, at 10:00 AM at the church. Mrs. Yvonne Wegener will be the hostess. All ladies of the congregation are invited and asked to bring their sack lunch.

The program will be announced later.

This month you have the opportunity to support with your mites LWML Grant #11 for the 2017-2019 biennium, for Training Lutheran Middle Eastern Missionaries. The Biblical Orthodox Lutheran Mission (BOLM) is bringing the Good News of salvation, by discipling and educating new believers, and (as God's plan unfolds) it will assist in commissioning new missionaries around the world who will share the life-giving Word of God and the love of Jesus with many others. Women of Faith thank you for your support of these mission grants.



Evangelism Outreach:

Seven letters of invitation to worship with us have been sent out to those names submitted by the congregational members so far. We are desiring and waiting for additional names with contact information.

Names, with contact information, should be submitted in writing and enclosed in an envelope and given to the office or put in the Offering plate. It may be helpful that you also include your name, but not used if you would prefer. Also, please pray earnestly that the Holy Spirit would be active in our efforts.

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

Voters' Meeting Highlights: The Treasurer reported that during the first half of the year our income was \$42,598.71, and the expenses were \$38,496.96. The General Fund has \$45,602.96 and the Memorial/Designated Fund has \$19,915.15.

After finding a problem with the men's upstairs toilet, it was discovered the flushing units in all seven of our toilets were under a factory recall. Replacement parts were sent to the church and Ted has since replaced them.

A proposal was presented to blacktop the drive and area at the rear of the building to the lower level at a price of \$11,500, after some discussion it was tabled for further study. A motion was approved to accept a bid of \$400 from Dobbles Sealcoating to repair a damaged area of the existing blacktop and seal the small portion of pavement going down the hill.

A motion was approved to transfer Memorial funds to the General Fund and close those accounts where the amount of monies was less than \$100.

Sunday School will start again in September providing children are enrolled. Letters to parents encouraging attendance will be sent out.

A Gift: When it comes to stewardship, a favorite Bible verse is the account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4). It's a moving account. Our Lord praises the seemingly small gift of two copper coins given by a poor widow above the abundance of gifts given by the rich, saying, "Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them" (Luke 21:3).

And that is usually where we stop. But the text goes on. "For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on" (Luke 21:4).

"She ... put in all she had to live on." She gave everything. She held nothing back. She trusted that the Lord who made her and all creatures, who gave her everything she had, who redeemed her from her own sin, from death, and the power of the devil, who called her by the Gospel and enlightened her with His gifts of Word and Sacrament, would continue to do this. He would provide her with all that she needed for this body and life because that is the character of the God she had.

But this is not why we give small gifts. Her gift, though it appeared small, was actually large. When we are tempted to give small gifts it is precisely because we want them to be small! We don't trust the Lord to provide for us.

We give small gifts because we lack faith in the One who created us, redeemed us, sanctifies and keeps us in the one true faith. We give small gifts because we doubt that God will really give us what we need and desire. We give small gifts because we are not content with what God has already given.

We are not slaves, children of the slave woman, under the Old Covenant (Gal. 4). We are adopted sons of the free woman. And since we are sons, we are also heirs. And heirs receive the inheritance. For everything is already ours in Christ. And thus, moved by the willing spirit of adoption, we do the will of God in financial matters far beyond all that done by those under the Old Covenant who were forced by legal demands.

So what have you decided to give? How do I decide what to give? Let the Scriptures be your guide. We are to give proportionally to what we have received from God's giving to us (Luke 12:48; 1 Cor. 16:1-2, 2 Cor. 8:12). But you have not been set free to give nothing. See that you excel in the grace of giving (2 Cor. 8:7).

We are not free to live selfishly outside the Gospel, without regard for God who gives us all good gifts, without generosity for our neighbor who needs us and our gifts, without supporting the community of faith in which we live, without care for our spiritual fathers and those who teach and help raise our children in the faith, without resources for the poor and needy – in short, we are not free to live unto ourselves, hoarding what God has given us only for us.

For love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10). And the sum of the law is this: Love God and love your neighbor (Matt. 22:34-40). We love because He first loved us. We give because He has given to us. Luther once said, "Possessions belong in your hands, not in your heart" (LW 14:240). There is a reason your 10 fingers spread apart. With your hands you catch God's gifts for what you need and let the rest fall through your fingers to your neighbors – your family, your friends, your community, your church.

LCMS Stewardship article for August 2018

News From Kuwait: Heather reports Pastor Weber is doing his best to deal with, and help others deal with, the 122 F degree temperatures with sand blowing EVERYWHERE at all times. While there is low humidity, their skin is drying, and really taking a beating from the heat, dust and sand. Early morning has the best air quality, so Pastor gets up at 4 AM to do his daily work out.

Continue your prayers for all of them, as they prepare for a difficult transition. For some, it will be a happy homecoming, But for others, it will be to uncertain relationships. It has been a long time for all.

Heather will keep us posted on Pastor's return plans when they become available. She is grateful for the support we have shown to their family during this time.

