



# Acts of Faith

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



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## Controversial Conventions Contending for the Faith

We all know that the Christian faith is under attack by a world that is so often opposed to the teachings of Holy Scripture. However, enemies of Christ and His Word can also come from within, rather than outside the Church. False teachings spring forth which “pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ” (Jude 4). This is why the people of God - both individually as well as corporately - need to be diligent and contend for the faith. The verb that Jude uses is a strong one. It suggests not merely a friendly competition, but a fierce struggle, which can be painful. In fact, the root of the word in the original language is our English word agony.

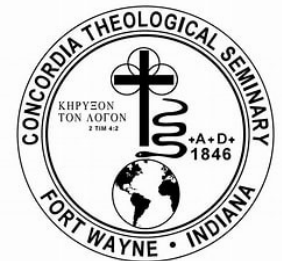
A controversial church convention can be a living display of the graphic image St. Jude presents in these verses. Fifty years ago, in July of 1973, such a convention occurred in New Orleans as delegates from the LCMS met. For several years preceding the convention there had been concerns about how Scripture was being taught at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. A majority of the faculty members were using the Historical-Critical method of Biblical Interpretation, which already had inroads in Europe and in mainline denominations in the United States. The premise of this method held that the Bible must be approached as any other book, and be subjected to critical analysis regarding its authorship, historicity and truth. Basically, this approach set aside Scripture’s own claim to be the inspired, inerrant Word of God. Biblical narratives which claimed to be miraculous were interpreted to be fanciful exaggerations which were only meant to teach a moral lesson. When pressed, therefore, some of the professors of that day would assert that Adam and Eve need not be real, historical people, or that the miracles of Jesus did not really occur as Scripture described them.

The 1973 LCMS convention addressed the situation at the St. Louis Seminary. In a sad, but necessary judgment, the delegates asserted that the method of Biblical teaching at that time “cannot be tolerated in the Church of God.” It was hoped that after the convention some sort of reconciliation could take place. But that did not occur. In February of 1974 a majority of students, and 40 of the 45 professors “walked out,” and SemineX was founded. These events had a profound effect upon me as I began my undergraduate education in 1975, eventually enrolling at Concordia, St. Louis, where a new faculty, totally committed to the truth of Holy Scripture, had been formed.

As our Synod gathers again in convention this summer in Milwaukee and faces issues related to “Wokeism” in our Church’s University System, we pray God’s blessings on the delegates as they again “contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.”

Rev. Dr. Wilfred L. Karsten, Holy Cross, Moline, IL

**Josh Bieri Bulletin:** Joshua with wife, Chrystal, and sons, Jake and Isaac, now reside in Fort Wayne, IN where he is studying for the ministry of Christ. Joshua Bieri is from Taylor Ridge, IL. Currently, he is officially halfway through with Greek studies and thanks be to God, he is doing great with it. He is appreciative of CID-Rock Island Circuit for our prayers and support as he walks the path of the seminary. July has been a fantastic month with a great group of men who are here all with varied talents that the Lord has brought together to learn to serve His kingdom



*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1*

Worship Schedule  
9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service

### *August's Calendar*

- Aug. 06**      **10th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**
- Aug. 10      WOF Mtg. 10:00AM
- Aug. 13**      **11th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**
- Aug 17      Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM  
Church Council 7:00 PM
- Aug. 20**      **12th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**
- Aug. 27**      **13th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**

**Thank You:** To **Rev. Robert Hagen**, Emeritus, for filling in during Pastor Weber's vacation to South Korea in July.

**PORTALS OF PRAYERS** are available in three sizes for July-September 2023 in the narthex Please help yourself. Take one to use and one for a friend. Please help yourself. Old copies of the devotional book are recycled and sent to prisons throughout the nation by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

The **68th Regular Convention** of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will be held from July 29 to Aug. 3, 2023, at the Baird Center in downtown Milwaukee. The Synod will gather under the convention theme, "We Preach Christ Crucified," based on 1 Cor. 1:18–25. In a world of uncertainty, the church's proclamation, mission, and identity remain the same. We preach Christ crucified. Pray for our convention delegates.

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

**Our Faith family:** Allison Leezer, Cari Bridgewater, Nancy Tudder, JoAnne Behnke, Peggy Faber, Bonnie Nuding, Vanda Hallock, Kevin Hull, and Wayne Becker

**Friends:** Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, Bob and Linda Shanahan, the citizens of oppressed Ukraine, and all military personnel and first responders.

**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.

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

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*



- Aug. 06      Marilyn Sturtevant (Green)  
Aug. 13      Kari Tavares (Green)  
Aug. 20      Leah Weber (Green)  
Aug. 27      Mary Hahn (Green)

#### Elders List:

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

#### **USHER'S LIST**

- 1st Sunday: Ted Sturtevant  
2nd Sunday: Nick Phillips  
3rd Sunday: Gary Hahn  
4th Sunday: Kevin Hull  
5th Sunday: Jim Cook



**Thank You!!!**

Our thanks to Joe Cervantez, Sue's husband, who has volunteered to help us mow our campus lawn at Faith this summer.



## Baptism Dates

Jack Breedlove 8/31  
Jonathon Estes 8/24



## Birthdays

August 3 Randy Stockner  
August 6 Mark Tudder  
August 7 Andrew Peterson  
August 10 Layne Stapel  
August 12 Jemma Cade  
August 16 Laura Heinrich  
August 21 Jack Breedlove  
August 25 Erin Tavares

## Wedding Anniversaries

August 2 Joe & Sue Cervantez (43)  
August 9 Jeffrey & Laura Heinrich (26)  
August 10 Kari & Joe Tavares (44)

**Women of Faith:** The ladies will meet on Thursday, August 10th, at 10:00 AM. Carol Cook will be the hostess for the day. They will package LWR kits, and have a brown bag lunch. All ladies are welcome.

This month we are collecting mites to support the Mission Grant to the Orphan Grain Train Servant Center. Funds from the grant to the Orphan Grain Train Servant Center will be used in the construction of a new Servant Center that will connect seamlessly to the current warehouse and will provide an increase in mission capacity (10 million meals annually), provide for effective flow of goods and efficient use of space, and increase the safety of volunteer workers. The Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God's people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ's name and character to needy people both far and near. Thank you for your mites and for your prayers for these mission projects.



Women Of Faith will be putting together LWR **Personal Care Kits** at their August meeting. They still need soap bars and nail clippers. They are planning on putting together 25 kits. Thanks for all the support from this congregation.

Each kit will consist of: 1-medium light-weight bath towel, 2-bars of bath size soap (9oz.) wrapped, 1-adult size toothbrush in package, 1-sturdy comb, and 1-metal nail clipper.

**International Lutheran Church Seoul:** Pastor and Heather went to Seoul, South Korea in July to visit their daughter, Rebekah, who is teaching there. Providence provided them the chance to stay at the parsonage for the International Lutheran Church of Seoul, while their pastor, Rev. Carl Hanson, with wife Chenhsi, are vacationing back in the United States. Pastor Weber conducted worship there on July 23 and 30th. Last week's service is available on their website at [www.ilcseoul.org](http://www.ilcseoul.org)

Rev. Hanson has served as a missionary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the Asia Pacific region for 25 years, and at ILC the last four years. The two couples met up in Des Moines, IA earlier this summer.

International Lutheran Church is a thriving English-language Christian ministry in the heart of Seoul since 1962, serving both expats and Korean nationals interested in growing in their relationship with Christ. It is affiliated with the LCMS.







The next Small Church Summit in CID will be at Faith Lutheran Church, Lincoln, on Feb. 3 or (if weather is bad then) on Feb. 10, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. President Timothy Scharr of SID will make a presentation on churches reaching out to their inactive members, but most of the day will be devoted to interaction. In the afternoon, participants will be able to choose four of six possible topics for short small group discussions. Mark your calendars and inform Pastor if you would like to attend.

**Voters' Assembly Notes:** The semi-annual voters' meeting was held on July 9th. The first 6 month treasurer's report was distributed with Sue reporting that the general fund has \$53,125.42, the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$14,618.97 for a total of \$67,744.39. The church extension fund balance is \$144, 617.32. The first 6 month expenses exceeded income by \$751.05. The final invoice for the elevator repair has not yet been received. A \$250 memorial was given in honor of the Godke's 70th Wedding anniversary by Glen and Betty's family.

Membership changes included receiving infant son Maclin Talbot by Baptism, and releasing Mallery (Tudder) Pettis to St. Peter's-Kewanee.

Trustees reported the Rockford Insurance Company has been contacted, and has approved additional monies to repair the siding on the church. Israel Brothers Construction will be completing the siding and DeReu Roofing will be repairing the church and garage roof.

A motion was approved to have the piano tuned since it has been several years since the last time. Discussion was held on the public using our parking lot for recreational activities and the church's liabilities. Signage and security cameras were suggested, and these will be discussed with insurance carrier and the Council members.

This September a Bible Study "Call to Witness" will be offered giving information and tips to help spread the word and how to encourage family and inactive members back to church. This will possibly be held on Saturday mornings and led by Pastor Weber.

**Godke 70th Anniversary:** On July 2nd Glen and Betty Godke celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at Faith with a noon luncheon in the fellowship hall with nearly 100 guests of family and friends. The church ladies hosted the event with catered food and cake provided by family members. We wish this family many more wonderful years together.

Earlier in the day many of the family members attended worship service with Glen and Betty here at Faith. How awesome!

*However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see*



**Sad News:** Linda L. Moeller, 80 and beloved wife of Charles, finished her earthly race and went into the arms of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on July 24th. Chuck and Linda were Laborers for Christ on our building project, and endured as dear friends of Faith. A memorial service for our sister in Christ, Linda Moeller, will be Friday, August 4, at noon at Runge's in Dav- enport. Visitation will be at Runge's Mortuary from 10am to noon.

Memorials may go to Park View Lutheran Church, 14 Grove Rd., Eldridge, IA. 52748

**Question:** Is there anything in scripture referring to the ages of the disciples and followers of Jesus?

**Answer:** The New Testament does not provide us with specific information regarding the age of the disciples of Jesus. In Jewish tradition the age 30 was regarded as the time of maturity and the minimum age for public teaching. Commentators sometimes point out, for example, that since the fishing business involved the kind of hard labor only younger men were able to endure, Peter and Andrew, James and John, were probably younger men in their 20s and 30s. Again, this is only guess work, so that we must be highly tentative regarding any conclusions that are drawn in this regard.