



# Acts of Faith

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



December 2016

Volume 16, Issue 12

## Worship Schedule

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

**Pastor Paul Weber** home: 309-764-3144 cell: 309-716-4759 email: chapemcc@gmail.com

Did you see the bumper sticker or the coffee mug that reads: "Wise men still follow Him." Advent and Christmas send out the same message. Hearing that message ourselves, we, like the shepherds must go and boldly tell others the great Good News and invite them to Christ. May this awe-filled, mysterious, joyous season lead you to a new true hope and a lasting walk with "the Word made flesh," Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Go and tell! We have such Good News to share! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**



**Advent & Christmas Service Schedule:** "Evergreen... is All I Ever Want!" is the theme for 2016 Advent services at 6:30 pm on December 6, 13, and 20th. December 18th is a special Christmas Sunday School program at 10:15 am. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm on December 24th. There will be **no** service on Sunday, December 25th or on Saturday, December 31st as Pastor is helping with services in Galesburg. Sunday, January 1st worship is at 9:00 am. Please mark your calendar and join us. "O Come All Ye Faithful"

## Those For Whom We Pray...

Please include the following in your thoughts and daily prayers.

**Our Faith family:** Doris Hier, Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, and Heidi Heinrich  
**Friends:** Karen Wright, Bob Strange, Rev. Wegener, and SSG Camie Kelly



**Looking for an Opportunity to Serve?** Faith Church Council is in need of members to serve in lay leadership positions that will be elected at the January Voters' Assembly. Positions open include three elders, chairman, and vice chairman. Prayerfully consider using your time and talent in one of these positions. Contact Bill Croegaert or Wayne Becker if you are interested or have questions.



The colorful red poinsettias will once again be used to decorate our Sanctuary to enhance the beauty of God's house. It is a wonderful opportunity to remember loved ones in memorial or tribute by dedicating one or more of these plants. The price will be between \$10-\$15 each and you may take them home following the January 1st worship service. Please sign the sheet in the narthex or call the church office by Sunday, December 14, if you would like to purchase one.

**Baptism:** Welcome to our newest member of Faith, baptized on November 6th, June Opal Leezer. June was born September 22, 2016 and is the daughter of Nicholas and Allison Leezer. God bless her as she grows to know Christ filled with the Holy Spirit.

*Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Matthew 28:19*

**Sympathy** Our sympathy and prayers go out to the Raymond Robinson family on the death of Ray's brother, Roger Robinson, on November 25.

### December's Calendar

<b>Dec. 04</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>
Dec. 06	Advent Service 6:30 PM
Dec. 08	WOF Christmas Luncheon 12:00 noon
<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Third Sunday in Advent</b>
Dec. 13	Advent Service 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting 7:30 PM
<b>Dec. 18</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Advent</b> Sunday School Video Program 10:15 AM
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:0 PM</b>
<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>Christmas Celebration</b> No service
Dec. 31	New Years Eve No Service

### December Birthdays

Joy Hernandez Butler	12/02
Carol Cook	12/03
Sandra Phillips	12/05
Madison Carpenter	12/07
Mathew Peed	12/08
Lisa Huseby	12/08
Cheryl Snyder	12/13
Corey Tavares	12/13
Ashley Phillips	12/15
Ernst Heinrich	12/16
Nicholas Leezer	12/16
Kaitlin Phillips	12/22
Hunter Damm	12/29
Alyssa Croegaert	12/31



Hymn of the month - "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" LSB #334

### December Cleaning Schedule

Week starting	Team#	Type
December 4	Team #5	Weekly
December 11	Team #6	Monthly
December 18	Team #1	Weekly
December 25	Team #2	Weekly

### Altar Guild Schedule

December 4	Sharon Larson	Blue
December 11	Marilyn Sturtevant	Blue
December 18	Joan Behnke/ Bonnie Nuding	Blue
December 24	Marilyn Sturtevant Kari Tavares	White
January 1	Mary Hahn	White

### Baptism Dates

Marcelene Godke	12/21
Doris Hepner	12/21
Kim Tudder	12/29



### Wedding Anniversaries

Lorie & Brian Elgin	12/13
Mary & Meredith Duncan	12/30

### Weekly Ushers:

- 1st Sunday: Ray Heinrich & Kevin Hull
- 2nd Sunday: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
- 3rd Sunday: Marvin Novotny & Randy Stockner
- 4th Sunday: Mike Leezer & Wendell Hier
- 5th Sunday: 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

**Prayer Requests:** Have someone or something that you would like Pastor Weber 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, phone, and cell phone.

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](mailto:hahn.gary@comcast.net) before December 22, 2016.

### Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

*With Deepest Sympathy* Our condolences go out to the family and friends of Lawrence Krahn who passed away on November 30, 2016. We pray your heart and soul will find peace and comfort in the Lord at this difficult time.



**Women of Faith:** The next WOF meeting will be on December 8th. They are having their annual Christmas Party and Luncheon at noon at Nancy Tudder's home.



**Voter's Assembly** The next voter's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 8, 2017 after the worship service in the fellowship hall. The meeting agenda will include the adoption of the 2017 congregational budget, the election of officers, and the adoption of Congregational Policies and a Statement of Beliefs. Copies of these are attached to this newsletter and are available at the church office. These are important concerns for our congregation and you are encourage to attend and give Church Council your feedback.

**Thrivent Choice:** Don't forget to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars for next year to *Faith Lutheran*, Kewanee, Illinois. Each year, eligible Thrivent members designate Choice Dollars® based on their qualifying insurance premiums, contract values and volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars® are funds intended to advance the missional impact of Christian organizations. You can call 800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice", register on line, or call our local Thrivent Office directly for assistance. Your participation in this program can be very beneficial to our congregation.



**Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®**  
**Let's thrive!**

**Gifts and Giving** Every Christmas present that sits wrapped under your Christmas tree will wear out. It will break or go out of style. This fact was there, somewhere, in the back of your mind even as you bought them, but you bought them anyway. For you love the person you bought them for, you wanted to see that look of joy it brings to their face. So also God gives to you. But greater. What He gives will never wear out, break down, or go out of style. For what He gives is His eternal and only-begotten Son, wrapped in your flesh, and placed upon the tree of the Cross. He gives His Son for you. He gives that you may have everlasting joy. He gives because He loves you. This is why the Word became flesh to dwell among you. The Word became flesh to be placed under the Cross for you. You are forgiven. This is why we give. We give because He has first given to us. And just as it was a joy for Him to give all He had to us. It is a joy for us to give to one another and His church so that this message of forgiveness, life, and salvation may be proclaimed.

**Abilities Plus** is having an open house at their facility on N. East St. between 1-4:00 PM on December 4th and the community is invited to attend. They are offering their Christmas wreaths for sale.



## Statement of Belief

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kewanee, IL, is a voluntary member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). The LCMS is a mission-oriented and Bible-based denomination that confesses the historic, orthodox Christian faith in the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a faith built on “the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20). With the universal Christian Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod teaches and responds to the love of the Triune God, who created all that exists; became man to suffer, die, and rise again for the world’s redemption; and brings people to faith and new life through His Word and Sacraments. The three persons of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – are coequal and coeternal, one God. There is one God (Dt. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4), in three persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 1:9-11). Each person is of one and the same divine essence and is equal in power and majesty. This teaching is called the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Though it cannot be fully comprehended, it is how God has revealed Himself in the Bible. We recognize Martin Luther’s Large and Small Catechisms as explanations of our doctrinal beliefs.

Faith Evangelical Lutheran, while upholding teachings and practices that are consistent with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and while honoring Synod convention resolutions, is self-governed and establish policies based on local circumstance and expediency. Our congregation operates according to its own constitution and bylaws – which are required by the Synod Bylaws and reviewed by the Central Illinois District, through which the congregation holds membership in the Synod – and therein establishes an orderly way of making decisions and determines which individuals or entities in the congregation (e.g., the pastor, church council, board of elders) will have authority to act on behalf of the congregation in specific circumstances. The Constitution and bylaws of Faith Evangelical Lutheran govern our decision-making and policies.

### The Holy Bible

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16), and the Scriptures are completely without error. God has given the Scriptures to us to lead us to salvation in our Savior Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:20). Because they alone are the Word of God, all teaching must be based on them alone. In addition, Faith and the LCMS accept without reservation the writings contained in the *Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Believing in the authority of Holy Scripture and that the Lutheran Confessions are a correct interpretation and presentation of biblical doctrine, we agree to conform all their teaching and practice to the Scriptures and the Confessions. SCRIPTURE ALONE — SOLA SCRIPTURA : The Bible is God’s inerrant and infallible Word, in which He reveals His Law and His Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ. It is the sole rule and norm for Christian doctrine.

### Our Sin and Need for Forgiveness

Adam and Eve were originally created without any sin. However, after the fall into sin (Gen. 3), all people have been born sinful (Rom. 5:12), and we daily sin (Rom. 3:23). There is nothing that we ourselves can do to free ourselves from the bondage of our sin (Rom. 5:6). We are all sinners, who deserve God’s punishment. The 10 Commandments show us how we fail to live up to God’s standard.

### Salvation through Jesus Christ

God’s Law shows us our sin, the Gospel shows that God sent His Son to save us from our sin. Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was born of the virgin Mary. He is both true God and true man in one person (Col. 2:10). He saved us first by fulfilling God’s Law perfectly in our place (Heb. 7:26,27), and then by offering His perfect life as the payment of our sins on the cross (Is. 53:6; 2 Cor. 5:21). On Easter morning Christ rose from the dead (1 Cor. 15:17). Christ’s resurrection assures us of eternal life with Him in heaven (1 Cor. 15:20). Christ accomplished the salvation of the whole world on the cross, but this salvation is received only through faith in Him as our Savior (Acts 10:43). We are not saved because of any of our works. Salvation is an undeserved gift of God through faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2:8,9). Even faith is not a work, but a gift given by the

Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:3). **FAITH ALONE — SOLA FIDE:** By His suffering and death as the substitute for all people of all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for them. Those who hear this Good News and believe it have the eternal life that it offers. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him.

### **The Means of Grace**

The Holy Spirit uses certain means to bring us to faith and to strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ. These means of grace are the Word of God and the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. In His Word God uses the Law to bring us to see our sin, and the Gospel to help us to see our Savior from sin Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 1:23). Baptism is the means by which the Holy Spirit grants us a rebirth as children of God (Rom. 6:4; Titus 3:5). In Holy Communion we receive the body and blood of our Savior in the bread and wine as a guarantee and pledge that our salvation has indeed been accomplished (1 Cor. 11:23ff). **GRACE ALONE — SOLA GRATIA:** God loves the people of the world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him and do not deserve His love. He sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly.

### **Good Works**

No one is saved because of any works that they do (Eph. 2:9). Our salvation is purely a gift of God. But as Christians we are also new creations. God gives us the will to love others as Christ has loved us (Eph. 2:10; Mt. 5:16). However, as long as we are on this earth we also have the sinful nature which fights against our new nature in Christ. So the Christian life becomes a struggle between the new nature and the old (Rom. 7:14ff). We do good works, not to be saved, but because we are saved.

### **Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

We believe that God wonderfully and unchangeably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Faith Evangelical Lutheran as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to our members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be rejected and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church.

### **Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps. 139).

## Policy of Marriage

The marriage policy of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kewanee, Illinois, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). The official position of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Res. 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Rom. 1:26-27). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same sex civil unions and marriage. Our pastors will not officiate over any marriages inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any marriage ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy. Weddings may only be performed at Faith when either the bride or groom is a member of the LCMS.

## Guidelines for Weddings

1. The couple shall contact the Pastor at least 16 weeks in advance of the wedding date to arrange for premarital education and counseling sessions.
2. Weddings are worship services, therefore the Pastor, as worship leader, must approve the liturgy, music, and vows in the service itself.
3. Reserve the date on the church calendar before other arrangements are made. (See Facility Use Guidelines)

## Policy of Facility Use

The pastor or Church Council must approve all uses of church property and facilities. Generally, priority shall be given to church members, their immediate families, and organized groups that are part of the ministry, organization, or sponsored activities of the church. The church believes that its property and facilities are to be used for the fellowship of the Body of Christ and to bring glory to God. Although the facilities are not generally open to the public, we sometimes make our facilities available to approved non-members as a witness to our faith, in a spirit of Christian service that is consistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But facility use will not be permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices that conflict with the church's faith or moral teachings, which are summarized in, among other places, the church's constitution and bylaws, and in various places on its website [<http://www.faithkewanee.org/>] and on the website of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, *lcms.org*. This facility use policy is consistent with our belief that allowing our property and facilities to be used for purposes that we determine are contrary to this church's beliefs would be an endorsement of those purposes and a contradiction and grave violation of the church's faith and religious practice (2 Cor. 6:14; 1Thess. 5:22).

Further, it is important that the church present a consistent message to the community and that the church staff and members conscientiously maintain that message as part of their Christian life and as a witness to others that is consistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church's faith use any church facility. Nor may church facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. This policy applies to all church facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church's sanctuary, because the church understands all of its property as a gift from God to be received with thanksgiving and to be set apart and used to the honor of Jesus' name in ways that are consistent with our faith in Him (Col. 3:17). Consistent with this policy, church property, facilities and equipment will be made available to non-members or outside groups which affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses of the facilities are consistent with the church's faith and practice.



## **Facility Use Hours**

Facilities use hours shall be approved by the Pastor or the Church Council.

## **Scheduling Events**

Facility use requests shall be made to the Pastor or Church Council by submitting "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form. A four week lead time is requested. The event will be reserved and placed on the church calendar only when the pastor or Council approves the use.

## **Fees**

Use of church facilities may be subject to a use and maintenance fee of \$35 to pay for the upkeep of church facilities. Church members are not required to pay a fee for usage because maintenance of the facilities is derived from member tithes and offerings. This fee shall accompany the "Church Facility Request and Agreement" and will be refunded if the request for use is denied or cancelled. Additional fees for cleaning and/or equipment operation, if required, will be at \$30.00 per hour with a minimum of one hour.

## **Facility Use Guidelines**

1. Alcohol Policy: No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances may be possessed, served or consumed in any of the Faith Lutheran Church facilities or on the church grounds.
2. Smoking Policy: Smoking inside or within 15 feet of church facilities is prohibited.
3. Groups are restricted to only those areas of the facility that the group has reserved.
4. Food and beverages without a lid in the worship space is not permitted.
5. Church equipment, such as tables and chairs, must be returned to original placement, unless arranged otherwise prior to the event. Office, music, and sound system equipment are not included in facility use agreement unless arrangements to have designated personnel required to operate this equipment are present.
6. All persons, groups or organizations are required to leave the facilities and grounds as they found them or better. Trash must be removed from all parts of the use areas. All lights, including restrooms, must be turned off, and all doors and windows must be closed and locked. All areas inside and outside the facilities including parking areas must be restored to their as found condition. Any leftover food and beverages must be removed from the premises on the day of the event.
7. Abusive or foul language, violent behavior, and drug or alcohol abuse are strictly prohibited on church premises. Any person exhibiting such behavior will be required to leave the premises.
8. Any person or group must sign the "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form prior to reservation of church facilities.
9. Facility usage requires the presence of adult (over 21 yr.) supervision at all times. The safety and health of the participants in any scheduled event is the full and complete responsibility of the person, group or organization sponsoring the event.
10. Note that certain unanticipated events may require your event to be relocated or rescheduled (i.e. funerals).
11. The congregation is not responsible for theft or damage to personal property brought into the building.
12. Group acknowledges that they will not bring or allow dangerous items to be brought on to the property or into the facility.
13. All groups and/or organizations using the Faith Lutheran Church facilities or grounds are responsible for any and all damages to any of the facilities and grounds, including but not limited to any property, equipment, or furnishings. Legal action will be undertaken to recover any and all payments of any and all damages.
14. Decorations (i.e. pictures, displays, streamers) shall not be attached to walls, pews, chancel rails, or ceilings in a manner that will leave permanent marks. All decorations must be removed immediately after the event concludes.
15. This document constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and is not assignable. The requestor named on the Facility Request and Agreement form assumes general responsibility for ensuring that all rules outlined in this guideline are followed.

# Faith Lutheran Church – Facility Reservation Request and Agreement

Name of person or organization requesting use of facilities: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please state whether you are a:**

Church Member  Church-Sponsored Ministry  Non-Member  Non-Member Group/  
Organization

**Contact Information:**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If the requested use is by an organization not affiliated with the church, please briefly state the organization's purpose and mission: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list the organization's website, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the names of the organization's officeholders and leaders

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe which church facilities you are requesting use of and the purpose for which you intend to use the facilities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) and time(s) are you requesting to use the facilities:

\_\_\_\_\_

If you are requesting use of the church's facilities for a wedding and/or wedding reception, please list the names and contact information of the bride and groom:

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_ Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the name, contact information, and religious affiliation of the person officiating the wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the marriage preparation counseling or training undertaken by the bride and groom:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**I affirm that:**

1. I understand that the church does not allow its facilities to be used in a way that contradicts its faith or by persons or groups holding beliefs that contradict the church's faith.
2. To the best of my knowledge, the purpose for which I am requesting use of church facilities will not contradict the church's faith, and I commit to promptly disclose any potential conflict of which I am aware or become aware to church staff.
3. I am not aware of any beliefs that are professed by me or the organization I represent and which is requesting use of the church's facilities that contradict the beliefs of the church. I agree to promptly disclose any potential conflicts in belief to church staff.
4. I understand that upon approval of my facilities use request, I will need to provide any fee required by the church.
5. I understand that the church does not allow its facilities to be generally available to the public, and that my use of these facilities is subject to the pastor's approval, which is conditioned in part on my agreement to the requirements in the "Church Facility Use Policy," a copy of which I have read and understood.
6. I understand that I will be responsible for any damages to the church facilities resulting from this proposed use of facilities.
7. The church believes disputes are to be worked out between parties without recourse to the courts. See, generally, Matt. 18 and 1 Cor. 6. Accordingly, users of the facility agree to attempt resolution of any disputes through Christian mediation.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_