



# Acts of Faith

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



December 2018

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## Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

The harvest is in and the prairie fields lay bare. The Thanksgiving feast with its tasty leftovers is but another memory. The “Black Friday” deals have come and ended. Now, Christians turn their thoughts to Advent, a time of hope and expectation. It is not for the arrival of the festive holiday gatherings and guests, nor for the Amazon boxes and gifts around the Christmas tree. The season of Advent is about Jesus Christ's coming into our world. Advent is also about Christ coming in very real ways into our lives right now, and it is about the second coming of Christ on Judgement Day.

A familiar Advent hymn sung in many Christian churches is Charles Wesley’s “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus.” In 1744 Wesley penned a prayer in response to the brokenness he saw surrounding him. At this moment in history, England was overwhelmed with orphans, and people were divided based on their social classes. His prayer was translated into a song intended to celebrate the first coming of Jesus and prepare for the second coming of Jesus. Haggai 2 tells how the Israelites, God’s own people, lived in a similar kind of collective expectation, and Charles Wesley attempted to capture these feelings in this beautiful Advent hymn. It is Hymn #338 in the LSB.

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus**  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
**Born a child and yet a King,**  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.



The Old Testament teaches us to expect a King. The Magi traveled far to honor a child, God’s long promised King. But the Lord's type of King is not what our human minds expect. We are taught to expect someone new, someone different. The Unexpected. The King comes as the King of Shame, Guilt, and of the Low. Not what this world would expect, but this means His benefits are out of this world. As our King, Jesus conquered Satan, removed the guilt of our sin, and overcame death on our behalf. He will come again as Judge to give us eternal life in His heavenly kingdom. This Advent season let us gather at Faith on Thursday evenings at 6:30PM in expectation of our King. With joy and hope in our hearts let us worship our Savior, and willingly serve our King with complete devotion.



## Special Service Schedule

- Advent December 6 Thursday ..... 6:30 PM
- Advent December 13 Thursday..... 6:30 PM
- Advent December 20 Thursday..... 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve  
**December 24, Monday 5:00 PM**  
Candle Lighting Service



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

*December's Calendar*

- Dec. 02 1st. Sunday in Advent**  
Worship and Holy Communion 9:00 AM  
Mite box collection
- Dec. 06 Advent Service 6:30 PM
- Dec. 07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance
- Dec. 09 Second Sunday in Advent**  
Worship and Holy Communion 9:00 AM
- Dec. 13 Women of Faith Mtg. Noon  
Advent Service 6:30 PM
- Dec. 15 Decorate the Church 9:00 AM
- Dec. 16 Third Sunday in Advent**  
Worship and Holy Communion 9:00 AM
- Dec. 18 Elders and Council Mtgs. 6:30 & 7:00 PM
- Dec. 20 Advent Service 6:30 PM
- Dec. 21 Winter Begins
- Dec. 23 Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
Worship and Holy Communion 9:00 AM
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Nativity of Our Lord**  
Candle Lighting Service 5:00 PM  
and Holy Communion
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day No services
- Dec. 30 1st Sunday after Christmas**  
Worship No Communion
- Dec. 31 New Years Eve No Service

*Altar Guild Schedule*

|             |                    |       |
|-------------|--------------------|-------|
| December 2  | Mary Hahn          | Blue  |
| December 6  | Marilyn Sturtevant | Blue  |
| December 9  | Kari Tavares       | Blue  |
| December 13 | Marilyn Sturtevant | Blue  |
| December 16 | Sharon Larson      | Blue  |
| December 20 | Marilyn Sturtevant | Blue  |
| December 23 | Mary Hahn          | Blue  |
| December 24 | Marilyn Sturtevant | White |
| December 30 | Kari Tavares       | White |

Weekly Ushers:

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

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 |

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

**Our Faith family:** Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Joyce Long, Fred Stapel, and Bonnie Nuding.

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

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



**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.

**Bible Study:** Sunday morning Bible Study has resumed with Pastor Weber. The Book of John is currently being studied. Please consider spending an additional hour in His word each week. Bring your coffee and join us in the lower level.

**R.I. Circuit News:** Rev. Astrowski, Immanuel-Rock Island, was elected to represent the circuit at the 2019 LCMS Synodical Conference, and lay delegate will be Dick Mr. McMullen, Concordia-Geneseo.

### 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 Tavaras        | 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 |

### Baptism Dates

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Karen Adkison    | 12/21 |
| Judy Bridgewater | 12/19 |
| Justin Carper    | 12/05 |
| Alyssa Croegaert | 12/31 |
| Marcelene Godke  | 12/21 |
| Jacob Hernandez  | 12/18 |
| Linda Jacobs     | 12/23 |
| Corey Tavaras    | 12/22 |
| Micah Tavaras    | 12/23 |
| Mallery Tudder   | 12/17 |
| Kim Tudder       | 12/29 |

### Wedding Anniversaries

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

**Women of Faith:** The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, December 13th, at noon for their Christmas luncheon at the Becker home, 617 S. Chestnut St. Members are asked to bring a dish to pass and a white elephant gift for game prizes.

Mites will be gathered on Sunday, December 2nd. December mites are for the LWML Mission Grant, Sharing Jesus with People with Disabilities. This mission grant will provide funding for faith-filled services for brothers and sisters in Christ with intellectual disabilities. Women of Faith thank you for your support of the LWML Mission grants with your mites and your prayers.



**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 approximately \$10 each, and you may take them home following the January 6th worship service. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office by Thursday, December 13, if you would like to purchase one. You may use a general offering envelope, but please include your name, amount, and indicate it is for the Poinsettia purchase.

**Council Action:** The Treasure reported the general fund balance was \$39,339 and the dedicated fund balance was unchanged. The new furnace has been installed at a cost of \$12,889, but the bill has not been paid. Two loads of road mix have been installed on the drive to the lower portion of the building and a replacement light fixture was installed at the front entrance door. Permission was given to have a tree installed on campus in the memory of Carol Schwefel. Elders will work out the type and location of the tree with the donors next spring.

The next Voters' Assembly will be January 6th to approve the 2019 budget and elect officers. Also, the congregation will have the opportunity to nominate persons for the President and 1st Vice-President positions of the LCMS to be elected at the International Convention next summer.

The Council is seeking memorial donations for the new furnace. Members are asked to help with additional offerings for this project too. We are still awaiting word from our insurance carrier to see if they will cover any of this expense. The Council recognized and thanked Sally Klebe for a gift of \$200. The Klebe's were Laborers For Christ members working here at Faith Kewanee and giving generously.

Next meeting will be Tuesday evening, December 18th, at 7:00 PM.

**HELP WANTED:** The congregation will be decorating the Narthex and Sanctuary on Saturday, December 15th, beginning at 9:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome to help adorn our church for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season.



**Central Illinois District** e-publishes a monthly newsletter. If you would be interested in finding out what is going on throughout the district follow the address below to check out the current and past events and stories. <http://www.cidlcms.org/monthlynewsletter.html>

**Lutheran World Relief.** Today, Lutheran World Relief operates in East and West Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, helping some of the world's poorest communities build the resilience they need to thrive. Natural disasters and conflict-driven emergencies ravage the lives and livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people each year. While emergencies affect people at all societal and economic levels, the world's poorest suffer the most because they have the fewest resources to prepare for a crisis and the fewest resources to rebuild afterward. LWR works hand in hand with vulnerable communities to help rebuild after disaster strikes as well as avoid or prepare for future disasters. In the days and weeks after a disaster, we are on the ground helping to meet people's immediate needs. And in the months and years following, we are dedicated to working with them to ensure that they can rebuild better and stronger than before.



Mail form and check to: Lutheran World Relief  
PO Box 17061 Baltimore, MD 21297-1061 or call  
+1 (800) 597.5972 to make your secure credit card  
donation. Donation forms can be found on our site  
at : [https://lwr.org/wp-content/uploads/  
DONATE\\_BY\\_MAIL.pdf](https://lwr.org/wp-content/uploads/DONATE_BY_MAIL.pdf) NOTE: Donations must

be postmarked on or before December 31st to be deductible for the current tax year.  
Donations made in December will be matched so double your efforts.

*Remember to wash your hands and say your prayers  
because germs and Jesus are everywhere!*

**Rev. Kenneth Wegener, Emeritus** was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for his 60 years of service to our Lord from the Central Illinois District LCMS at the worship service on November 18, 2019. Pastor Ken served for 23 years at St. Paul-Kewanee prior to his retirement.

A coffee and fellowship reception was held following the service. Well done good and faithful servant. We wish him many more years of good health and God's riches blessings.



**2018 Contribution Statements:** If you would like to have your 2018 Faith contribution statement emailed, please send your request and email address to [p.leezer@mchsi.com](mailto:p.leezer@mchsi.com)

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



**Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas**

