



Acts of Faith

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



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Christ is Coming: At a time when much of the world is frantically gift shopping, putting up brightly lit Christmas lawn decorations, and anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus, Christians around the world are observing the liturgical season of Advent. From the Latin word for “coming”, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ both in the past in His incarnation as the baby Jesus, but also in the future with His promised second coming as Christ Triumphant. Furthermore, Advent is a time to focus on His present coming to us in the Word and Sacraments.

Advent marks the beginning of the church calendar and continues for four Sundays until Christmas. Christians in many countries have adopted various traditions of lighting candles during Advent to observe this as the time of the coming of Christ who is the light of the world. One widespread tradition is the use of an Advent wreath both in the church and the home to mark each Sunday in the Advent season. While the origin of this as an Advent tradition dates back to the Lutheran church following the Reformation, the current form commonly used today was developed more recently and is used in many other Christian churches throughout the world. The wreath is made out of evergreens in the shape of a circle to represent eternal life. It consisted of four candles originally; three purple or blue candles to match the liturgical colors and one pink candle lit on the 3rd Sunday in Advent. Many Advent wreaths also have a 5th candle, the Christ candle, which is lit during the time of Christmas, symbolizing that Christ, the light of the world, has entered the darkness. *“Again Jesus spoke to them saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life’”* (John 8:12).

Often our culture’s focus is on everything but the reason for the season, the impending arrival of Christ Jesus. Rarely does man’s thoughts ever go to the One who was the Light. *“In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”* Corinthians 4:4 (ESV) Simeon knew immediately that the child before him was the Messiah. *“Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word: For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of all people: a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel”* (Luke 2:29–32 KJV). We believe, teach and confess that Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord, and that through faith in Him we receive forgiveness of sins, eternal life and salvation. Even when times become difficult we remember the words recorded in John 1:5: *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

Let us look back to the Old this Advent, in anticipation of the New. God opens doors. God opens wombs. Three Old Testament accounts tell the story of God making the impossible possible. Isaac, Sampson, and Samuel were all born to women whose wombs were considered barren. God opened their wombs and pre-figured for us the miracle of Jesus own birth.

Use this Advent season to prepare your hearts to receive God’s wonderful gift and await with joy His next coming. Let us keep the festival of Christ’s Nativity in sincerity and truth, gathering with family and loved ones to receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Join us on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings at Faith as we light candles week by week culminating with the Christmas Eve candle lighting as we worship of our Lord Jesus Christ. As Christians, with peace in our hearts, share and spread the good news of Christ to all we come into contact with.



Blessed Christmas and may the Joy of Christ be with you all through the New Year.

Worship Schedule

9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service

Adult Bible Class, 10:15 A.M.

December's Calendar

- Dec. 01** First Sunday in Advent
Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 05** Advent Mid-week service 6:30 PM
- Dec. 08** Second Sunday in Advent
Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 12** WOF Luncheon at Noon
Advent Mid-week service 6:30 PM
- Dec. 14** Christmas Decorating of the Church
- Dec. 15** Third Sunday in Advent
Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 17** Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM
- Dec. 19** Advent Mid-week service 6:30 PM
- Dec. 21** Winter begins
- Dec. 22** Fourth Sunday in Advent
Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Service 5:30 PM
Candle lighting and Communion
- Dec. 29** First Sunday after Christmas
No Communion

There will be no News Years Eve Service.
Remember Food Pantry gifts during this month.

Altar Guild Schedule

Dec. 01	Mary Hahn	Blue
Nov. 10	Kari Tavares	Blue
Dec. 15	Sharon Larson	Blue
Dec. 22	Leah Weber	Blue
Dec. 24	Marilyn Sturtevant	White
Dec. 29	Mary Hahn	White

Weekly Ushers:

- 1st Sunday: Gary Hahn & 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

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 before December 20, 2019.

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

Our Faith family: Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Bonnie Nuding, Nancy Tudder, Cheryl Snyder, and Heidi Heinrich.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Rev. Burnell Eckhardt and family, Betty Criswell, Rev. Ken Wegener, Ron Pettit, Steve Scheff, 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.

R.I. Cir: St. Matthew, Milan, is calling a shepherd to lead their congregation. Pray that God grant this congregation a favorable response.



Oktoberfest Dinner: The net profit from the dinner was \$2266.02. A check has been sent to the Cristo Rey congregation for \$1133.00. Thanks again for all your help.

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
Alyssa Croegaert	12/31

Baptism Dates

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: Christmas is a time to focus on giving, and Women of Faith are offering an opportunity for you to bring food items to church to donate to the Kewanee food pantry. Each time you come to church in December, whether for worship service on Sunday morning or Advent service, or for a meeting, bring a food item and put it in the box in the narthex. Let's fill the box and then we will present it to the Kewanee Food Pantry. *"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."* Matthew 25: 40

In December, LWML is collecting mites to support the Mission Grant, God's Grace for This Generation LAMP Ministries Inc. Your contributions are greatly appreciated to further the mission work of the LWML. In order to fulfill their mission of sharing the Gospel, LAMP needs to expand the number of staff who go into the isolated communities of northern Canada. Here, where nearly one million indigenous people live, staff will bring VBS, Bible studies, and personal testimonies of the hope found through faith in Jesus. This witness is the only source of personal Christian education or witness of the Gospel available to these people, where statistically over 15 percent of children and youth in this area will try to take their own lives out of despair and hopelessness.



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

On December 12th, the ladies are meeting for their traditional Christmas luncheon. Mary Hahn is hosting the event at her home, 42 Edgewood Drive, at noon. All the ladies of the congregation are invited. Please let Mary know if you are planning to attend. After lunch there will be fun and games as usual.

Thank You Received:

Faith has received a thank you letter from the family of Judith Umbarger for the memorial we sent in her name to the St. John's Endowment Fund.



Christmas Eve: Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 5:30 PM. Pastor Weber has suggested having children in our Christmas Eve service to aid in telling of the nativity story. If you have young

ones who would be willing to participate in costume, please let Pastor know so he can make practice arrangements.



Red poinsettias will once again be used to decorate our Sanctuary to enhance the beauty of God's house this Christmas. 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 5th worship service. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office by Sunday, December 15, 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.

Welcome two New Members: Joining in membership at Faith Lutheran were James Cook, on November 10th by Adult Confirmation, and Taylor Francis Talbot, by Baptism on November 17th. Taylor is the granddaughter of Jim and Carol Cook, and daughter of Katie Talbot. God's blessing on the Taylor and Cook families.




Church Council Action: The treasurer reports that the General fund balance is \$24,320, and the Designated fund balance is \$17,702. Most of the elevator expenses have been paid using memorial monies. A \$450 invoice remains outstanding. A new insurance policy submitted by Rockford Mutual for the building and property was discussed. Bill and Ted will meet with the agent to discuss questions before accepting it. Ted believes there is still water leaking from the roof on the north side of the building. Roof repairs have been made at other locations last month. Budget and officer candidates are to be reviewed next month. New speakers have been installed for the organ and Chimemaster. January 5, 2020 is the next voter's meeting.

2019 Contribution Statements: If you would like to have your 2019 Faith contribution statement emailed, please send your request and email address to p.leezer@mchsi.com

HELP WANTED: The congregation will be decorating the Narthex and Sanctuary on Saturday, December 14th, beginning at 9:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome to help adorn our church for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season.



A yellow telephone icon with a green cross above it, next to the text "Church directory update".
New Membership Directory: The updated membership directory is almost complete for those active members of Faith.

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.

CID News: CID is calling a Missionary Pastor to work in inner city circumstances in south Peoria. Christ Lutheran Church there will provide a "staging area" for outreach by a new District missionary. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send a laborer!

The CID Church Extension Fund is still offering for a limited time its 24-Month **SPECIAL RATE** of **2.35%** (minimum investment of \$500). Not only will you receive an excellent financial return on your investment, you will be participating in the expansion of God's Kingdom and ministry as you partner to provide resources to churches and schools in the Central Illinois District. Please contact Chris Anderson or Susan Short at the CID-CEF (phone: 217-793-1802, email: cef@cidlms.org) for this special interest rate and other investment options.

R.I. Circuit: A circuit forum is planned for 1:00 PM March 15, 2020 at Immanuel, Rock Island to discuss the future of the circuit considering the decline in congregational attendance and stewardship, the shortage of available ministers, financial difficulties of the CID, and the general regression of declared Christians, both Catholic and Protestant, in America.



Advent worship services will be on December 5th, 12th, and 19th at 6:30 PM.

Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 PM

