



Acts of Faith

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



December 2022

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God's First promise: *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel."* (Genesis 3:15)

Did you know the first promise God ever made was about Christmas? In Genesis 3, we read that when Adam and Eve first sinned in the Garden of Eden, mankind was separated from God's presence. Sin robbed us of innocence and separated us from God. Because He is holy and perfect, God cannot be in relationship with sinners. This alienation broke God's heart because He loves us more than we could ever know. God formed a plan for our reconciliation with Him from the very beginning of human existence, and Jesus was going to be the essential part of the story.

That first Christmas, the birth of our Savior, marks the beginning of God's process to restore our relationship with Him through a New Covenant. The world waited thousands of years for God's promised Savior, and then, finally, He was here. This baby, who would forever defeat sin and death, became Immanuel, God with us. This is the true hope for all Christians, and the Bible speaks of a hope that is an absolute certainty.

As we enter this Advent season, we should focus on the fulfillment of God's first promise, recognize that God is true to His Word, and meditate on the truth that He loves us so much that He sent His perfect Son to be born into a sinful world, to die and rise again, so that He could have a relationship with us.

Advent is a season of preparation in the Christian church. We are preparing to celebrate Jesus' coming as a baby in Bethlehem while also anticipating Christ's coming again to usher in the kingdom of God. Let's prepare to welcome Jesus together!

Here is an Advent prayer.

Lord Jesus, so often during this time of year we are tempted to not focus on you. We have so much to do, so much to prepare for, and the stress is often great. Remind us that in the end, our hope is not in the little things we do now. Our hope is in you, the perfect lamb of God, who was prophesied for hundreds of years and came exactly when you were supposed to. You were there before the world was created, you died on earth and came back to life, and sit at God the Father's right-hand today. Help us remember the inheritance we have as your followers, and that regardless of our circumstances, that inheritance does not change. Show us how to put our hope in you this day. We ask for these things in your name, Amen.

May you find peace and happiness during this wonderful season of boundless hope and throughout the new year. Thank you for everyone who served Faith in 2022, and may God richly bless you.



Angels are Messengers of HOPE is this year's Advent service theme.

Angels often top our Christmas trees and play a key supporting role in the Christmas story. Their part though, is not minor. They come from God as Messengers, particularly as Messengers of Hope. They give HOPE in the midst of: doubt, fear, the seemingly impossible, darkness, and when God delivers the small package (which is bigger than you could ever imagine). God wants us Christians to be full of HOPE, so He sends us the angels to hear and contemplate this Advent season. **Advent services are on Thursdays, December 1, 8, 15th, & 22nd at 6:30 pm.**



Worship Schedule
9:00 AM Sunday Worship Service
10:15 AM Bible Study



December's Calendar



- Dec. 01** Midweek Advent Service 6:30 PM
- Dec. 03 Church decorating 9:00 AM
- Dec. 04** Second Sunday of Advent
Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 08** Midweek Advent Service 6:30 PM
WOF Christmas Luncheon 12:00 Noon
- Dec. 11** Third Sunday of Advent
Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 15** Midweek Advent Service 6:30 PM
Church Council 7:30 PM
- Dec. 18** Fourth Sunday of Advent
Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 22** Midweek Advent Service 6:30 PM
- Dec. 24** Nativity of Our Lord 5:00 PM
Candle Lighting Service
- Dec. 25** Festival of Christmas 9:00 AM
Worship with Holy Communion
- Dec. 31 New Years Eve

- Dec. 04 Mary Hahn Blue
- Dec. 11 Marilyn Sturtevant Blue
- Dec. 18 Leah Weber Blue
- Dec. 24 Sharon Larson White
- Dec. 25 Marilyn Sturtevant White

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: Wayne Becker
- 4th Sunday: Kevin Hull
- 5th Sunday: Jim Cook

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, Vanda Hallock, and John J. Hernandez.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Kent West, Jim Tudder, Hudson McCook, Eugene Fronk, and all military personnel and first responders.

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

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.

Our World: Citizens of and those in Ukraine that peace may come to this land.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



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, please notify Pastor Weber via e-mail or phone.

HELP WANTED: The congregation will be decorating the Narthex and Sanctuary on Saturday, December 3rd, beginning at 9:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome to help adorn our church for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season.



BIRTHDAYS

Joy Hernandez Butler	12/02
Carol Cook	12/03
Sandra Phillips	12/05
Madison Carpenter	12/07
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 Johnson	12/22
Alyssa Croegaert	12/31

Baptism Dates

Judy Bridgewater	12/19
Justin Carper	12/05
Alyssa Croegaert	12/31
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
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Women of Faith: The ladies will hold their annual Christmas luncheon at noon on December 8th at the church. Bring a dish to pass and a white elephant gift; a meat entrée will be provided along with games and prizes. Cheryl Snyder will be the hostess.

In December your mites go for Christ Lutheran Church, the first Lutheran church in Belize, established in 2019 by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Belize Mission Society. A new Mercy House on the Belize Lutheran Campus will help fill people in the coastal village of Seine Bight with physical and spiritual food. School children and their families will be blessed by the activities and services this building will be able to accommodate. Thank you for your mites and your prayers for this Mission Grant.



Christmas 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 1st worship service. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex by Sunday, December 11, if you would like to purchase one. You may use a general offering envelope, but please include your name, amount, and indicate that it is for the Poinsettia list.

Pastor is leading a Bible study CHRISTIANS IN A WOKE WORLD: A call to courage, confession, and love. Systemic racism, privilege, political correctness, woke movement, social justice are common terms in the world today. To better understand these words and to answer questions that stem from these, a Christian today must understand this new Marxism, called Cultural Marxism, and its impact on our society and religion. We will analyze this Cultural Marxism from a Biblical perspective. You are welcome to sit in on Sunday morning; bring your coffee and join this discussion.



Portals of Prayer: Issues for Jan.-March are available in the Narthex .

Church Council Report: The treasurer reported that the General Fund balance is \$48,971.41, the Memorial/Dedicated Fund is \$15,340.51 for a total of \$64,311.92. The Church Extension Fund Balance is \$158,936.70. Chris Becker Memorials were \$105.00 designated for the mortgage.

Voters' Assembly is scheduled for January 8th after the worship service.

Council approved a contribution be made to Concordia-Geneseo's Academy for \$800 from Oktoberfest proceeds, and remainder to the repair of the elevator. Rockford Mutual Insurance will increase by \$50 /month.

Pastor will be attending a CID pastor's conference on January 7th in Farmersville, IL.

Council approved a food drive in Advent for the Kewanee Food Pantry. Poinsettia orders for Christmas services can be ordered until December 18th. A sign up list will be available in the Narthex.

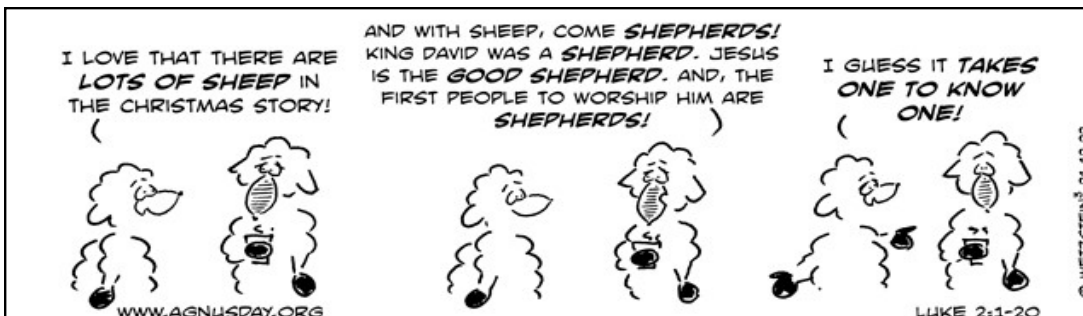
Next scheduled meeting is December 15th to approve a 2023 budget and set a slate of officers for 2023.

2022 Operation Thankful is a program sponsored by Faith congregation this Advent season to assist the Kewanee Food Pantry. Members are encouraged to bring donations of non-perishable food items or dollars to worship services during this season. What a wonderful way for us to show our love for the fellow citizens in our community.



REMEMBER: Please contact the office and inform us of any changes of name, address, marital status, e-mail, phone, and cell phone. E-mail addresses are important in these changing times to communicate with each other.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days. Micah 5:2



Q: What are swaddling cloths as mention in Luke 2:7 (And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths)?

A: Swaddling clothes are cloths and bands used in the practice of swaddling, or essentially “wrapping” an infant tightly in cloth. The idea behind swaddling is that it helps the baby transition from the womb (a very snug place) to the outside world. Swaddling clothes are still used today, but with some modifications. In general, swaddling has been proved to help infants sleep better, to prevent them from scratching themselves especially in a manger of straw or grass. When the Son of God came into our world, He was entrusted to responsible, loving parents who sought to meet His every need. Baby Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes according to the custom of the day, an action that showed the tender care and affection of His mother, Mary. The angel who spoke to the shepherds on the hillside mentions swaddling clothes as part of the sign to the shepherds that they had found the Messiah.