



Acts of Faith

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



February 2010

Volume 10, Issue 2

Love on a Cross

The origin of the stylized heart ♥ as a symbol of love may go back to the Greek culture of 8th century B.C.; long before the time of St. Valentine in the 3rd century A.D., who was martyred for his Christian faith.

However, Martin Luther made perhaps the most famous connection between the stylized heart and true love (the love of Christ expressed for us on the cross). Luther did this with his “Luther Rose” seal.

Luther designed this seal in cooperation with an ardent supporter of the Reformation, Lazarus Spengler. Spengler was the town clerk in Nuremberg, but also a gifted lay-theologian and hymn writer.

Luther explained the symbolism of the seal in the following words:

“The cross, black, is placed in a heart, which should be of its natural color (red), to put me in mind that faith in Christ crucified saved us. For if one believes from the heart, he will be justified [*For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*’ Rom. 10:10].

Even though it is a black cross, which mortifies and which also should hurt us, yet it leaves the heart in its natural color and does not ruin nature...that is, the cross does not kill, but keeps man alive. For the just shall live by faith, by faith in the Savior [*This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, “For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”* Rom. 1:17].

Such a heart is to be in the midst of a white rose, to symbolize that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace.



In a word, it places the believer into a white joyful rose, for this faith does not give peace and joy as the world gives [*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”* John 14:27].

Therefore, the rose is to be white, not red, for white is the color of the spirits and of all angels [*‘An angel of the Lord came down from heaven and rolled aside the stone and sat on it. His face shone like lightening, and his clothing was as white as snow.’* Matt. 28:2b-3 and *‘She saw two white-robed angels sitting at the head and foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.’* John 20:12].

This rose, moreover, is fixed in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that such joy in the Spirit and in faith is a beginning of the future heavenly joy. It is already a part of faith, and is grasped through hope, even though not yet manifest.

And around this field is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and goods, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

May Christ, our dear Lord, be with your spirit until the life to come. Amen.”*

As you celebrate the beautiful, but imperfect, love between man and woman this Valentine’s Day; remember the source of true, perfect, and eternal love, Jesus Christ; who showed the heart of His love on a cross.

In Christ,

Pastor Fischer

*Luther’s Works—American Edition—Volume 49, pp. 356-359



Adult Information Class

Pictures for our new church pictorial directory will be taken on June 15 & 16, and we would like to include the non-member spouses, or other relatives and friends, of *current* members as *new* members in our new directory.

A series of Adult Information Classes will begin on Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, 7:00 pm. These are “no-commitment” classes regarding the teachings of Lutheranism and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The theme of the classes is “God for Us”, and topics to be discussed each week include:

- ✦ For Non-Achievers Only
- ✦ Amazing Grace
- ✦ “But How Do We Know?”
- ✦ He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands
- ✦ Baptism: God is For Me!
- ✦ Power for Living
- ✦ God for Us—For Sure!
- ✦ We are the Church
- ✦ Full-Time Christianity
- ✦ God for Us—Forever!

At the conclusion of the classes, those who agree with the teachings of Lutheranism are invited to become members of Faith Lutheran Congregation. Please indicate your desire to attend the classes to Pastor Fischer ahead of time so that he can have enough class materials on hand. Contact him at 309-852-2787, 309-714-1181, or e-mail: pastor@faithkewanee.org.

If someone is unable to attend on Tuesday evenings, please contact Pastor Fischer to arrange a schedule which would meet your needs.

Those who are currently members, but who would like to have a review of the teachings of Lutheranism, are also invited to attend.

New Officers and Committee Members



At the January 10th Voters’ Meeting, the following individuals were elected as congregational officers or committee members for 2010:

Treasurer- Mary Hahn
 Elders- Otto Schwefel, Bob Snyder
 Evangelism Committee- Glen Godke
 Finance Committee- Betty Godke

Outgoing Officers are:

Treasurer- Mary Duncan
 Elders- Marvin Novotny
 Evangelism Committee- Otto Schwefel
 Finance Committee- Karen Adkison

Those who are continuing their terms (or have volunteered to extend their term of office) are:

President- Gary Hahn
 Elders- Wayne Becker, Bill Croegaert, Matt Peed
 Trustee- Ted Sturtevant
 Evangelism Committee- Marilyn Sturtevant
 Finance Committee- Sharon Field
 Church Council Secretary- Cheryl Snyder

Nancy Tudder will continue to serve as Congregational Secretary.

Many thanks to all those who *have* served, and those who *continue* to serve our Lord through these important positions in our congregation!



Church Directory Pictures! June 15-16, 2010

Pictures will be taken for our 2010 Church Pictorial Directory this June 15th & 16th. You may sign up for times from 2:00 - 9:30 PM on either of those days. Please plan to be available on one of those days for these important pictures. The pictures will be taken by Olan-Mills.

God’s Perfect Gift: During February we’ll be celebrating Valentine’s Day. This is a big occasion for card companies like Hallmark. Hallmark’s slogan is, “When you care enough to send the best.” God cared enough to send His best, but it wasn’t just a card or even a messenger. Motivated by love for us, He sent His Son, not only the *best*, but the *perfect* gift (John 3:16). Let us seek to emulate God’s love by giving *our* very best.

February 2010

- Feb. 03 Midweek Worship Service, 7:00 PM
- Feb. 07 **5th Sunday after the Epiphany**
"Souper Bowl of Caring"
- Feb. 08 Circuit Pastors' Meeting, 9 AM,
Zion, Taylor Ridge
- Feb. 10 Midweek Worship Service, 7:00 PM
- Feb. 11 Board of Education, 2:00 PM
Chili & Potato Soup Supper,
4:30-6:30 PM
- Feb. 14 **The Transfiguration of Our Lord**
Royal Oaks Worship Service, 2:00 PM
Kewanee Care Service, 3:00 PM
- Feb. 15 Faith serves the Monday Community
Meal, 4:30 PM
- Feb. 16 Women of Faith, 1 PM
- Feb. 17 Lenten Supper, 5:30-6:30 PM
Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 PM
- Feb. 18 Martin Luther's Birthday (1483)
Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM
Church Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
- Feb. 21 **First Sunday in Lent**
- Feb. 23 Adult Information Class, 7:00 PM
- Feb. 24 Lenten Supper, 5:30-6:30 PM
Midweek Lenten Service, 7 PM
- Feb. 28 **Second Sunday in Lent**

"O Lord, satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days" Psalm 90:14.

**Chili
and
Potato Soup
Supper!**



Come and join us on Thursday,
February 11th, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

The meal includes soup, drink, veggies,
bread, and crackers; all for only \$5.00!

Desserts will also be available.



Women of Faith

The next Women of Faith meeting will be Tuesday, February 17th, 1:00 pm. Vary will teach the group how to make vanilla.

All women of the congregation are invited to attend. (To assure enough supplies, please let Cheryl know if you are planning to attend.)

"Serve the Lord with gladness!"
Psalm 100:2



Save the Date!

July 19-23, 2010

**"Planet Zoom"
Vacation Bible School**

Planet Zoom is a zip, zap, zoomin' good time for kids of all ages. There's a whole new world Planet Zoom where **little is BIG**.

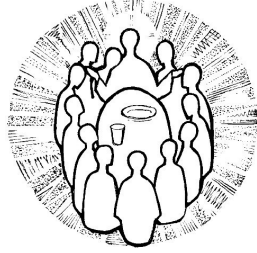
Kids will meet Scout, a bee in the Planet Zoom hive, and four other bee friends who will guide them through the week. Scout and his friends will guide children through five amaz-z-zing Bible stories that will teach them to be bold bee-lievers of Jesus. Together, Scout, kids, and even leaders will learn about how:

- Jesus, our Savior, came to seek and save the lost.
- Jesus, our Savior, does big things.
- Jesus, our Savior, says, "Believe!"
- Jesus, our Savior, tells us to go and tell.
- Jesus, our Savior, works through His people.

Planet Zoom shares new perspective that encourages even the littlest bee-lievers to make a big difference in God's big world. *So prepare yourself for a swarmin' good time.*

Bee Bold. Bee-lieve. Be HIS.

Lenten & Holy Week Services "Life Together"



The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17th. We will be having a special series of Lenten and Holy Week services on the theme of "Life Together." The midweek Lenten services will be at 7:00 PM. A light supper and fellowship time will be available any time between 5:30-6:30 PM.

February 17 (Ash Wednesday): "Life's Better in My Hands" (1 Peter 2:20-25)

Jesus said, "Father, into *Your* hands I commit My spirit." *We* tend to think, "Hand over my life to *someone else*? No way!"

February 24: "I'm Being True to Myself!" (1 Peter 1:22-25)

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." But of course, you *do* know what you're doing—or *do you*?

March 3: "This Is It???" (1 Peter 1:3-5)

Jesus said, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." Huh? We hear (and perhaps believe), "Life is short; get the most out of it here-and-now!"

March 10: "How Do You Know Who I Am?" (1 Peter 2:9-12)

Jesus said to Mary, "Woman, here is your son," and to John, "Here is your mother." Do you bristle when people make claims on your life?

March 17: "How Can I Believe in a God Who Would..." (1 Peter 4:12-25)

Jesus cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me" Is there vindication for believing in God even in the *toughest* times in life?

March 24: "I Need This...and This...and This..." (1 Peter 4:1-6)

Jesus said, "I thirst." What do *you* need? *Why* do you need it?

Revelation Commentary

Concordia Popular
Commentary: Revelation

by Prof. Louis A. Brighton



The Book of Revelation can bring to mind terrible visions of war, disaster, persecution, and global destruction. It challenges the reader with symbols and hidden meanings. Yet the golden thread that runs through Revelation is Christ with His Church in worship on earth and in heaven. This commentary explores and explains the final testimony of the ascended Lord before His return in judgment.

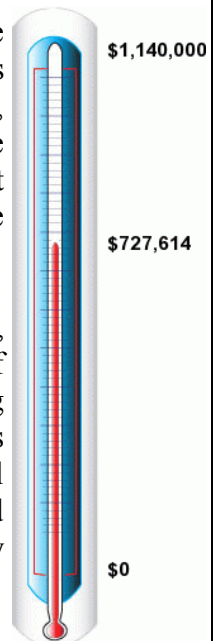
This book draws its content from the best-selling book Revelation—Concordia Commentary series. This new lay-friendly edition includes all of the original translation and commentary but excludes technical notes, original biblical languages, and terminology required of an academic edition.

The price is only \$24.99, and it is available from Concordia Publishing House: 1-800-325-3040, or www.cph.org.

The book is Item #15-5138.

"Pay Off Mortgage" (P.O.M) Report

Thank you to all those who have been making regular contributions toward paying for our building, especially those who have made pledges to pay a certain amount which we can count on in the future.



Any contributions, large or small, will help serve to reach our goal of completely paying for our building in as short an amount of time as possible. This will reduce the total interest amount which would otherwise be paid if we do not pay ahead of schedule .

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

James Nuding	2/01
Milton Stapel	2/02
Cal Breedlove	2/05
Melissa Newman	2/06
Lori Gibson	2/09
Tara Hicks	2/10
Miah Townsend	2/10
Cari Bridgewater	2/11
DeeAnn Krahn	2/11
Nancy Tudder	2/12
Rebecca Ault	2/13
Paula Leezer	2/16
Sandy Gillespie	2/17
Mark Helmkamp	2/17
Sue Cervantez	2/18

Kari Tavares	2/21
Claudia Croegaert	2/23
Fred Stapel	2/24
Nick Phillips	2/25
Melissa Carper	2/26
June Hull	2/27
Marvin Newman	2/27
Darlene Yount	2/27
James Woods	2/28

Anniversaries

Cheryl & Robert Snyder	2 / 10
Karen & Milton Stapel	2 / 29

Faith Lutheran Church

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Address Correction Requested



“For God so Loved the World, He gave His only Son...” John 3:16

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