



Acts of Faith

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



February 2021

Volume 21 Issue 2

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A Sense of Purpose: Many people have no clear sense of purpose. Maybe this is because contemplating our purpose in life may leave us feeling like we have failed. The “should have’s” and “what if’s” can discourage us and keep us stuck without a sense of purpose, and feeling unfulfilled, discontent, and unworthy of God’s blessings. So, how do we identify our purpose, embrace it, and successfully live it in meaningful and significant ways?

The first thing is to realize that God has already given us a purpose. Rick Warren wrote in *The Purpose Driven Life*, our purpose is to “give God glory and share His story.” How we specifically live out God’s purpose is determined by the context of our life and by the gifts, talents, and strength He gives us. As life changes, how we live out our purpose will change. An 88 year-old may live out his purpose differently than a 48 year old or an 18 year old. But each one’s life is made meaningful by their sense of purpose.

Secondly, put away regrets. We should do three things with past mistakes: learn from them, let go of them, and live what we have learned. Regret is different from guilt. Regret is buried within us and remains there, weighing us down and holding us back. We can bring our guilt to God where it is taken away by Christ’s forgiveness. He frees us to move forward from our mistakes and failures.

Thirdly, accept that we are never complete. We continually learn and grow, often from our mistakes. Making mistakes is part of growing. The person who never makes mistakes accomplishes nothing and never learns anything. Martin Luther wrote: “A Christian is never in a state of completion, but always in a process of becoming.”

Finally, trust that God works in us, through us, and even in spite of us. A friend of mine likes to say: I take comfort in knowing that I have insufficient strength to ruin God’s plans. God graciously allows us to carry out His purpose with his strength and by His blessing. Colossians 1:29 says “*To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.*”

God cannot fail. He can turn our failures and mistakes into something good in order to fulfill His purpose in us. We can joyfully live out our purpose. And God will one day graciously say to us: “Well done, good and faithful servant!”

– Rev. Jeff Harter

Significant Days: Christians are aware of what took place on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. But what took place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week? These three days contain some of Jesus’ most significant action, most significant teaching, and most significant confrontation with the religious leaders of His day. Following Ash Wednesday, a significant day in its own right, the other five midweek services of this series will explore the “Significant Days” between Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday. Midweek Lenten services will begin on Thursday, February 18th at 6:30 pm, and continue for the next five weeks.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

The
Season
of
Lent



February's Calendar

- Feb. 07** Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
with Holy Communion
Mite box collection
- Feb. 14** Transfiguration of Our Lord
with Holy Communion
Valentine's Day Observance
- Feb. 15** Presidents Day Observance
- Feb. 16** Elders and Council Mtgs. 6:30 & 7:00 PM
- Feb. 18** Ash Thursday Service 6:30 PM
- Feb. 21** First Sunday in Lent
with Holy Communion
- Feb. 25** Lenten Service 6:30 PM
- Feb. 28** Second Sunday in Lent
with Holy Communion

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

Altar Guild Schedule

February 7	Kari Tavares	Green
February 14	Mary Hahn	White
February 18	Marilyn Sturtevant	Black
February 21	Sharon Larson	Purple
February 28	Leah Weber	Purple

Elders List:

Wayne Becker: 309-853-8783
Kevin Hull: 309-852-0801
Ron Larson: 309-853-5111
Ted Sturtevant: 309-853-8203

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

Our Faith family: Allison Leezer, Cari Bridgewater, Nancy Tudder, Cheryl Snyder, Lori Elgin, and Heidi Heinrich.

Friends: Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Kent West, 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: That Lord of all will bring healing to those who are sick, comfort to those who mourn, care for those who tend and care for the ill, and bring an end to the spread of this virus.



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.

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



On Dec.31, 2020 Marcelene "Tootie" Godke departed this life and was given Christian burial on January 8th with Vicar Welke officiating a grave side service. The family plans a memorial service this summer.

Evelyn Ruth Weber, 90, of Litchfield, died on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021. She was the mother of Pastor Weber.

Our Christian sympathy and prayers go out to their families.

"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live," John 11:25 ESV

February Birthdays

Leah Weber	2/01	Paula Leezer	2/16
James Nuding	2/01	Mark Helmkamp	2/17
Milton Stapel	2/02	Sue Cervantez	2/18
Cal Breedlove	2/05	Kari Tavares	2/21
Melissa Newman	2/06	Claudia Croegaert	2/23
Tara Hicks	2/10	Nick Phillips	2/25
Cari Bridgewater	2/11	Melissa Carper	2/26
Nancy Tudder	2/12	June Hull	2/27
Rebecca Ault	2/13	Marvin Newman	2/27

Baptism Dates

JoAnn Behnke	2/28
Addyson Hicks	2/28

Wedding Anniversaries

Karen & Milton Stapel	2/29
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A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

Women of Faith: The ladies will not be meeting in February. They will meet on March 11th at 10:00 a.m. to work on Easter cards and have a brown bag lunch. Yvonee Wegener is the hostess for the day.

This month WOF are collecting mites for the LWML Mission Grant, "Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities at Concordia Seminary St, Louis."

Across the country, in both rural and urban areas, there are passionately devoted first-generation immigrants serving in full-time ministry positions who share the Gospel among their immigrant/ethnic communities. A number of these dedicated church workers are students enrolled in two Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, programs: the Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS) and the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT). The "Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis" mission grant will give financial assistance to meet their tuition needs. Thank you for your help in spreading God's Word.

WOF are collecting the following items that can be recycled, with proceeds going into the mite fund: Portals of Prayer books, cancelled stamps, ink cartridges, and cell phones. A collection box is located near the card rack in the Narthex.



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

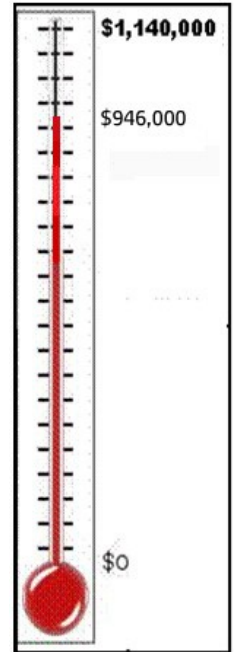


Don't forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® - Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support Faith Lutheran. Don't let Choice Dollars expire. Beginning January 1, 2021 eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available are asked to direct them to Faith Lutheran – Kewanee.

Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. This must be done by the end of March!

Church News

Voter Assembly Report: The treasurer reported 2020 income as \$82,767.86 which includes \$2845 transferred from the Memorial fund, and CEF rebate of \$2617.22. The 2020 expenses were \$69,375.11. The balance on our CEF loan is \$194,394.67. The Dedicated Funds balance is \$13,392.57 and General Fund is \$41,111.39. A motion to approve the report and place on file for audit was approved.



Elected to officer positions were Gary Hahn as Vice Chairman, and Sue Cervantez as Treasurer.

The 2021 Congregational Budget was approved with an expected income of \$77,500 and expenses of \$76,477. This includes a \$1200 salary increase for Pastor Weber, and increase in church insurance and telephone line costs.

The Geo-thermal furnace that serves the north side of the Nave and Sacristy has a fluid leak and estimates for repair or replacement will be requested. Other building maintenance items and repairs were presented.

The congregation approved new members including Leah Weber by transfer, and Knox Cade by Baptism since the last meeting.

The congregation voted "Yes" to the LCMS' question to allow postponement of the 2022 Synodical Convention to 2023 allowing opportunity for District Conventions to be held under COVID virus pandemic restrictions in 2021.

A motion was made and approved to send a \$100 memorial gift to the Lutheran Hour Ministries in honor of Mrs. Evelyn Weber, Pastor's mother.

Prayer for our nation: "O Lord, grant justice in Your left-hand kingdom, especially in the governments of this nation and of all the earth. Correct wrong. Punish and thwart evil, and especially racist evil. Grant peace that Your Gospel may flow all the more freely, especially to those most blinded by evil. Remind us, O Lord, of Your own prayer for those who crucified You, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:24). Let us not be overcome with anger, but overcome hatred with love.



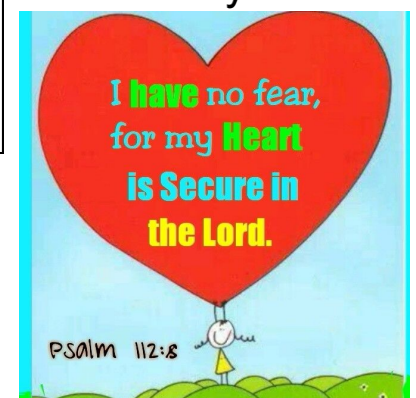
Finally, O Lord, grant faith, peace and hope to the bereaved."

Excerpt from Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

2020 Faith's Membership Statistics:

End 2019 Membership: 141
New Members: 3 (Emma Leezer and Knox Cade - Baptism, Leah Weber by Transfer)
Deaths: 1 (Marcelene Godke)
Transfer out: 0
End 2020 Membership: 143

Happy Valentines Day



2020 Contribution Statements: If you would like to have your 2020 Faith contributions statement emailed, please send your request and email address to p.leezer@mchsi.com

2021 Altar Flower Chart is up and available for you to sign up for altar flowers. Please consider placing flowers on our Lord's altar to remember a significant loved one or event in your life.