



Acts of Faith

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



February 2022

Volume 2022 Issue 2

Pastor Paul Weber home: 309-764-3144 cell: 309-716-4759 email: chapemcc@gmail.com

“It’s not fair!” If you are a parent like me, I am sure that you have heard this phrase from your children more than once. Maybe, you have even used the phrase once or twice as an adult. All of us are born with a natural instinct for what is fair, and “Life’s not fair” is often our lament. When it comes to coping with diseases like COVID they definitely are not fair. That is what I was thinking a few weeks ago when my virus test came back “positive.” How can that be? I have had the two vaccine shots plus the booster. I wear my mask when out in public areas. I wash my hands and use sanitizer— well maybe not as much as I did when this all started. So for me to show up as a positive statistic wasn’t fair at all. Why did some in the family come down with it and other household members didn’t? Then I realized that this disease doesn’t care what race, age, or sex, one is. Neither does it matter what responsibilities you have. Some will survive and some unfortunately will not. There are those who speculate every one on this earth will contact COVID at least once before it is ended. What a stressful thought? There is nothing fair about it.

The worldly culture is most concerned with fairness for all, and fairness is exactly what the devil wants because fairness for man is hell. But God does not wish to deal with us according to His justice, but according to His mercy in Christ. As Christians, we have peace in knowing God isn’t fair when it comes to our sinful condition. What is the covenant the Lord made with each one of us in baptism? We are saved only by grace, and through the blood of Jesus Christ. The promise of eternal life is offered for everyone. We add nothing to our own salvation.

For in God's “unfairness” is His love towards us. We are *“declared righteous freely by God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”* (Romans 3:24) *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9) God sent His Son to be pierced for our transgressions and He was raised from the dead for our justification. As a result of His generosity, we are now heirs of the Kingdom of heaven.

Some of us grew up in a Christian family and received baptism as infants, and we have studied the Bible all our lives. This is good. But, others have heard the Word of God the first time as adults and have been baptized as adults. A few others accept Jesus as they laid on their death bed— the thief on the cross next to Jesus. Yet, we rejoice and praise God that another soul has been saved. God’s promise is true no matter when the Holy Spirit takes over our heart. When we recognize that all sinners receive the same gift of faith by the grace of God, we are not concerned whether we have done more than others, or wonder if we must do more to earn God's favor. It is our duty and joy to share the gospel, God’s gift to mankind, with others at any time. We accept success in this mission is not because of our own ability, but through the power of the Holy Spirit.

When faced with the temptation to question the fairness of God, remember no matter how unfair things in the world seem to be, God is generous and good to us even though we don’t deserve His grace and mercy. In this, everyone has the peace that surpasses all human understanding.



Noah and the Flood is a Bible study from Foundations in Genesis taking a deeper look at Noah's Ark and the flood of Genesis 6-9. How and why God used climate change to reshape and cleanse the earth. Join Pastor on Sunday mornings for these video and informative sessions.

Lenten Series Did you know that Joseph was a prophet? Not Joseph who was the husband to Mary, Jesus' mother, but the Joseph who was the son of Jacob and Rachel. He was a prophet not only by the words he spoke, but also by the life he lived. This Lenten season, we will take a look at the ways Joseph's life foretold the life of Jesus. God works in mysterious ways. We start on March 3rd.

February's Calendar

- Feb. 06** **5th Sunday after the Epiphany**
 With Vicar Jonathan Lackey
 No Communion
 Mite box collection
 Circuit Forum time and place TBA
- Feb. 13** **6th Sunday after the Epiphany
 with Holy communion**
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17 Elders (6:30) and Council Mtg. (7:00PM)
- Feb. 20** **7th Sunday after Epiphany
 with Holy Communion**
- Feb. 21 President's Day
- Feb. 27** **Transfiguration of Our Lord
 with Holy communion**

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

Worship Schedule

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

Altar Guild Schedule

Feb. 06	Sharon Larson	Green
Feb. 13	Kari Tavares	Green
Feb. 20	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
Feb. 27	Leah Weber	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 Hollock, and John J. Hernandez.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Kent West, Jim Tudder, Patty Koch, Hudson McCook, 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.



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



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, 2022 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!

2022 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.



Operation Thankful 2021 was a program sponsored by Faith congregation during the Advent season to assist the Kewanee Food Pantry. Faith donated 435 pounds of food and products, along with \$45 in cash. We truly appreciate your generosity and help feeding many hungry families.



Birthdays of the Month

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

Women of Faith: The Women of Faith will not be meeting during February. All the ladies in the congregation are welcome to join the WOF next month for bible study, fellowship, and promoting mission work at home and abroad.

This month we are collecting your mites for the LWML Mission Grant, Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients, Phil's Friends. Phil's Friends sends a care package containing a Bible, fleece blanket, knit hat, fuzzy socks, dental hygiene items, unscented lotion, and more that arrives at the door of a cancer patient.

For the next 12 months Cards of Hope are sent with encouraging messages and uplifting Bible verses. The mission of Phil's Friends is to introduce and strengthen relationships with Christ to those walking through cancer. Thank you for your generous support of this mission project.



Voter's Assembly Action: Faith congregation voters held an semi-annual assembly on January 16th following the worship service with 13 members present. The Treasurer's report shows 2021 income of \$88,214.28 with expenses of \$83,650 for a net income of \$4,563.78. Current fund balances are \$45,919.90 in general fund and \$17,553.43 in the memorial/designated fund. Report details are available in the office.

Congregation accepted into membership by Baptism of Jaxson Johnson and Andrew Peterson.

Pastor announced he is planning to retire from the Army Reserve next November. A government form letter of support from Faith will be sent for 2022. Pastor Weber will be on orders with the Army Reserve Feb 6-12. Vicar Lackey from St John's in East Moline will be leading the service of Matins on Feb. 6.

The trustees reported that another furnace for the main floor has quit working with the same problem we had last winter. Bids for a new furnace and for repairing the existing furnace were discussed. A motion to repair with the lowest bid was approved. Other trustee actions for the past 6 months were listed along with the inspection of the fire extinguishers in December.

William Croegaert was elected Chairman and Kari Tavares was elected Recording Secretary. The 2022 budget was approved with income of \$76,430 and expenses amended to \$79,430 to reflect the repair of the furnace. This budget reflects a \$1200 annual increase in Pastor's salary, \$200 annual increase in Secretary's salary, and expenses for upcoming CID convention and elevator licensing in 2022.

Ted Sturtevant was elected Faith's delegate to the CID convention with Gary Hahn as the alternate.

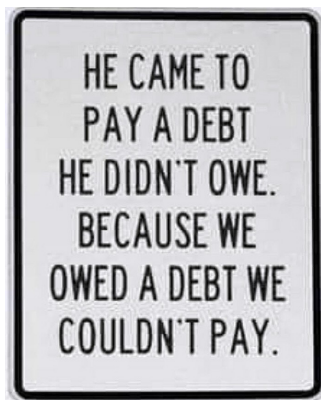
Kari Tavares was appointed as the new church secretary to replace Paula Leezer, who requested to be relieved.

*"Anyone who does not **love** does not know **God**, because **God is love**." 1 John 4:8*

Portals of Prayer: January-April editions are now available in various sizes in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy for home or one to give to a friend.

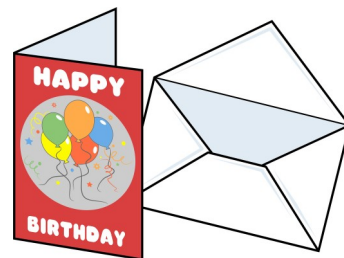
**60th Regular Convention Central Illinois District
July 17-19, 2022 Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL**

Missions Unpacked: Each week, from Jan. 24 to Feb. 20, you'll have opportunities to learn about LCMS mission work in an overseas region of the world, meet missionaries in a live Zoom presentation, and experience local culture through language, food and more! Get a group together or tune in solo, attend every session or watch some here and there. Registration is free and is open now. Multiple resources and registration are available at international.lcms.org/missions-unpacked.



“Here’s your sign!”

Greeting Cards Available: Greeting cards and all occasion cards are the perfect way to express feelings, celebrate special days and remind loved ones how much they mean to us! The WOF has a display rack of recycled cards available in the Narthex. Discounted price at \$0.75 a card, or 4 cards for \$3.00. Please take a look at what they have to offer for that special someone in your thoughts. Proceeds go to the mission efforts of the LWML.



2021 Contribution Statements: If you would like to have your 2021 Faith contribution statement emailed, please send your request and email address to p.leezer@mchsi.com. Remember to include your name on all giving envelopes to receive credit for all your contributions. Thank you for all your assistance and support of Faith.

Why does our church financially struggle when God, out of love for us, generously pours out His grace and mercy?

It is because we are sinners. Our fallen nature makes us selfish and miserly. It leads us to believe that we can have our cake and eat it, too. Because of sin, we want God’s grace and mercy; we want His blessings of body and soul. But we don’t always want to share it with those around us. We want to remain comfortable in our own self-contained, neat, and tidy lives – without the headaches of loving those around us by helping them in their time of need.

“Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” Remember that God has placed you in a church, not only to receive His grace and mercy, but to press His eternal and temporal blessings into service to your neighbor. The one who receives and the one who gives both rejoice in what is given and received. The one who receives only wants to give back to the one who gave so generously in thanksgiving.

Your tithes and offerings ensure that those around you have a pastor to preach the life-saving and life-giving Word of God. They ensure that the lights, heat, and air-conditioning are working. They ensure there is water for Holy Baptism as well as bread and wine for Holy Communion. They even ensure that your pastor has food and clothing for his own family. The gifts of God are immeasurable. They multiply and resound to everyone’s good as the fish and loaves in the feeding of the five thousand. Here’s hoping you find great joy as you generously support the congregation and community of Faith. [LCMS Stewardship 2022](#)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Col. 3: 16