



Acts of Faith

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



Feb.-March 2019

Volume 19 Issue 2

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From Epiphany to Lent:

The parties and festivities of December and January are over, and the fortunate snow birds have migrated to warmer, sunny climates. What remains are the cold dark gloomy remnants of an Illinois' winter. But a walk through the retail stores reveals that outdoor products and Easter treats are already beginning to blossom. In the church we continue through Epiphany and into Lent guided by the light of Christ and warm assurance of God's Word. John 8:12 tells us, *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."* Once again God will be leading us to find Christ in His Word and Sacraments.

In the Old Testament, God's Word came to mankind in the form of stone tablets and the visions of His prophets. The New Testament Gospels record Jesus' words and ministry which expresses God's desires and plans for us. During Epiphany we will hear these in the Gospel messages at weekly worship. Jesus' words silences evil spirits, heals the blind and sick, forgives sins, and shows His authority over death. These texts will prepare us for Christ's journey to the cross and our repentance and renewal during the Lenten season which follows. Christ's call to follow Him, His teaching and healing are needed for us just as much today as it was some 2000 years ago. We can trust in the love of Christ and the Lord's great mercy which comes to us in His Word and Sacraments.



While the world with its violence, bitterness, greed, and noise tries to distract and overwhelm us, we must remain confidently patient in Christ's true hope, strength, and salvation. We are able to accomplish this when we listen to and live in God's Word. Come hear the true Word of God each Sunday at worship, and as Luther wrote, "Show the devil the door and drive him away."

Lent is a season to repent and a season to remember. God calls us to remember certain things and particular people. Remembering puts in our minds the treasure of God's goodness. We learn and relearn to not trust in ourselves, but we learn to put our trust in God. Failing to remember accomplishes the opposite. This Lent let us remember the God who made us, saved us, and sets us apart.

What's with the Ashes? The act of the imposition of ashes on those who wish it on Ash Wednesday is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day. Ashes can symbolize dust-to-dust and remind worshipers of the need for cleansing, scrubbing and purifying. If they are applied during an act of kneeling, the very posture of defeat and submission expresses humility before God.

The use of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a more recent custom among most LCMS congregations, although some have done it for decades. The ashes are usually derived from the burned palms from the previous Palm Sunday. Like sin, they are very dirty and go a long way. One palm leaf will produce enough ashes for several years.



Usually the pastor takes the ashes on the end of his thumb and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of a worshiper, saying these words: "Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Welcome Vicar Alexander Blanken: Vicar Blanken will conduct our service on February 3rd in Pastor Weber's absence. We thank Holy Cross, Moline, for sharing with Faith the vicar to bring us God's life saving Word. There will be no communion at this worship service or Bible Class afterward. Vicar is studying at Concordia, Ft. Wayne, IN.

February's Calendar

- Feb. 03** Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
No Communion with guest officiant
 Vicar Blanken from Holy Cross, Moline
 Mite box collection
- Feb. 10** Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
with Holy Communion
- Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb. 17** Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
with Holy Communion
- Feb. 18 Presidents Day Observance
- Feb. 19 Elders and Council Mtgs. 6:30 & 7:00 PM
- Feb. 24** Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
with Holy communion

March's Calendar

- Mar. 03** The Transfiguration of Our Lord
with Holy communion
- Mar. 07** Ash Wednesday /Lent begins
- Mar. 10** First Sunday in Lent
with Holy communion
 Daylight Saving Time begins
- Mar. 14** Lenten Service 6:30 PM
 WOF mtg. 10:00 AM
- Mar. 17** Second Sunday in Lent
with Holy communion
 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 19 Elders and Council Mtgs. 6:30 & 7:00 PM
- Mar. 21** Lenten Service 6:30 PM
- Mar. 24** Third Sunday in Lent
with Holy communion
- Mar. 28** Lenten Service 6:30 PM
- Mar. 31** Fourth Sunday in Lent

Worship Schedule

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

Altar Guild Schedule

January 27	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
February 3	Sharon Larson	Green
February 10	Kari Tavares	Green
February 17	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
February 24	Sharon Larson	Green
March 3	Kari Tavares	Green
March 7	Marilyn Sturtevant	Black
March 10	Marilyn Sturtevant	Purple
March 17	Sharon Larson	Purple
March 24	Kari Tavares	Purple
March 31	Marilyn Sturtevant	Purple
Mar. 14, 21, & 28 Mid-week Lenten Services Marilyn Sturtevant Purple		

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

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

Our Faith family: Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Joyce Long, Fred Stapel, and Bonnie Nuding.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Judi Umbarger, and our troops serving abroad.

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

R.I. Cir. : St. Matthew, Milan, St. John, Geneseo, and Trinity, Coal Valley, are calling shepherds to lead their congregations. Pray that God grant these congregations patience, wisdom, and discernment in this process.



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.

Bible Study: Sunday morning Bible Study has resumed with Pastor Weber. The Book of John is currently being studied. Please consider spending an additional hour in His word each week. Bring your coffee and join us in the lower level.

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

February Birthdays

Leah Weber	2/01	Paula Leezer	2/16
James Nuding	2/01	Sandy Gillespie	2/17
Milton Stapel	2/02	Mark Helmkamp	2/17
Cal Breedlove	2/05	Sue Cervantez	2/18
Melissa Newman	2/06	Kari Tavares	2/21
Tara Hicks	2/10	Claudia Croegaert	2/23
Miah Townsend	2/10	Fred Stapel	2/24
Cari Bridgewater	2/11	Nick Phillips	2/25
Nancy Tudder	2/12	Melissa Carper	2/26
Rebecca Ault	2/13	June Hull	2/27
		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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March Birthdays

Charles Heinrich	3/01
Katherine Talbot	3/02
Addison Talbot	3/06
Bonnie Nuding	3/08
Betty Godke	3/11
Stella Nimrick	3/12
Deborah Woods	3/13
Jaxson Hicks	3/14
Eric Cervantez	3/16
Donald Bridgewater	3/20
Cindy Ganschow	3/27

Baptism Dates

Becky Ault	3/17
Cal Breedlove	3/06
Claudia Croegaert	3/24
Halea Damm	3/12
Ernie Heinrich	3/04
Mark Helmkamp	3/27
Tara Hicks	3/23
Aimery Jackson	3/16
Melissa Newman	3/13
Sandra Philips	3/01
Marilyn Sturtevant	3/19

Wedding Anniversaries

Julie & Roy Carpenter	3/04
Cindy & Rick Ganschow	3/10
Sandra & Raymond Heinrich	3/15
Mary Kay & Marvin Newman	3/18

Weekly Ushers:

1st Sunday: Ray Heinrich & Kevin Hull
 2nd Sunday: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
 3rd Sunday: Nick Philips & Randy Stockner
 4th Sunday: Mike Leezer & Wendell Hier

Women of Faith: The ladies will not be meeting in February. They will meet on March 14th at 10:00 AM to work on Easter cards and have a brown bag lunch. Marilyn is the hostess for the day.

February mites are being gathered to support LWML Grant #17. This grant, **Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team**, will provide a group of nursing students with a greater understanding of nursing as a calling as well as a career by giving them missionary experience while they provide medical needs to the people of Madagascar. Pray for this mission and give your mites to help. Women of Faith thank you for your mites and your prayers to enable this mission work to be completed.



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

Voter Assembly Action: Faith voters nominated the following people for the LCMS 2019 Convention:

President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison & Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast

First Vice-President Rev. Dr. John Wille & Rev. Peter Lange

Voters approved a reaffirmation of support and acknowledgement of Pastor's military service commitment.

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

Discussion was held to amend our constitution to reduce the number of Elders. Such action will require two additional voters meetings for consideration.

The 2019 Congregational Budget was approved with an expected income of \$83,000 and expenses of \$88,020. This includes a 4% salary increase for Pastor Weber, and a \$15/service increase for the organist, and \$5/hour increase for the cleaning person. The CID pledge was increased to \$2520 for 2019, and \$850 for new altar candles to replace existing ones using Memorial monies.

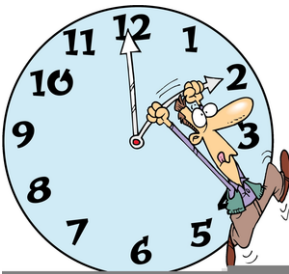
The voters approved a motion to use educational dollars to pay for LifeLight Bible study guides.

2019 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.

CID News: Mr. Dale Dirks, CID treasurer, presented the proposed 2019 Budget brought before the board by the Finance Committee. Following lengthy discussion, the 2019 Budget was approved to include raises for district staff and called workers according to 2019 guidelines. The budget reflects an approximate deficit of \$120,000. The Board approved a motion that 30% of any revenues collected in 2019 which exceed budgeted predictions would be given to Synod. There are 10 parishes currently vacant in the CID.

2018/2019 HAMMOND-HENRY HOSPITAL HEALTH SERIES Health professionals and other experts will offer information on a variety of topics affecting the health of men and women. Women's Health topics will be offered from 12 noon – 1 pm at The Cellar on the fourth Thursday of the month. The cost for lunch is \$8. February 28 topic is "Day Trips" and March 28 is "Memory Care in Geneseo." Register by calling H-H Hospital at 309-944-9112.

Don't forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars® - Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire. Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available are asked to direct to Faith-Kewanee. Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. If you're an eligible Thrivent Financial member and have Choice Dollars available to direct, please keep us in mind.



Remember to set your clocks forward 1 hour.

Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday, March 10th.

Lenten Services will be held on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM. They will begin with Ash Wednesday on Thursday, March 7th.

Lenten Schedule

On March 20th we will welcome the season of Spring.



WHAT GOD GAVE UP FOR LENT

HIMSELF



2018 Contribution Statements: If you would like to have your 2018 Faith contribution statement emailed, please send your request and email address to p.leezer@mchsi.com

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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