

Acts of Faith

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



Volume 10, Issue 1

That Awkward Silence...

You're very familiar with it. There's that point in our Communion services—during the Confession of Sins—where the hymnal calls for "Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination."

What exactly do you do during that brief time of silence? For us to thoroughly reflect on God's Word regarding our sins, or for self-examination of our sins, would take a very long time indeed. The pastor allows less than a minute to do so. Is it because he himself has so little to reflect on regarding his sinfulness, and on what God's Word has to say concerning it; is it because he's super-efficient in his reflection on God's Word and in confessing his personal sins; or is it because he's afraid the congregation will become impatient with a prolonged time for such reflection and self-examination? The answers are the *latter* two, and certainly not the *first* one.

To help you to really make use of that brief period of silence I'd like to suggest several ways to become "super-efficient" as we reflect on God's Word, and examine ourselves. You'll only need to use one or two of them at each service.

First, regarding reflection on God's Word, memorize the following passages, and use one or two of them during this time:

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on [Christ] the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

"O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be open to my pleas for mercy. O LORD, who would be able to stand if you kept a record of sins? (Psalm 130:2-3). "Deliver me, LORD, from hidden faults! Keep me safe, also, from willful sins; don't let them rule over me." (Psalm 19:12b-13a)

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

For more specific "self-examination" remember the words, "WASP LEG." The letters in those words are an acronym for one of the many variations of the list of traditional "Seven Deadly Sins"—sins that tend to draw us farther and farther away from our Lord and God. The sins in this particular list are: Wrath, Avarice, Sloth, Pride, Lust, Envy, Gluttony—WASP LEG. Think about any one of those particular sins, and how it applies to your life.

Thinking about any <u>one</u> of the Bible passages mentioned, or any <u>one</u> of the "Seven Deadly Sins" should give us more than enough to think about during the brief time of "Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination."

Thus, rather than that time being an "awkward silence" it can be a truly *meaningful* time in which to further appreciate the General Confession of Sins which follows it, and especially the Absolution:

"Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessings, Pastor Fischer



Thank You!

Thank you to all the members of Faith for your cards, gifts, and wellwishes during the Christmas season. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Pastor & Vary Fischer



Voters' Meeting

The next Voters' Meeting of Faith Lutheran Church is scheduled for January 10th, 11:30 am, following Bible Classes and Sunday School.

Business will include the election of Officers for 2010, the approval of a

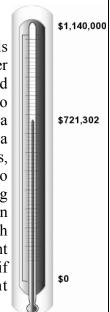
2010 budget, and nominations for Synodical Officers for the 2010 Synodical elections.

All confirmed members of the congregation 18 years of age and older are eligible to be voting members. Please plan on attending and giving your advice and input.

"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.

We're still looking for individuals who would be willing to make either lump-sum contributions toward paying-off our mortgage, or who would like to pledge to contribute a certain amount of money over a period of time. *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; which will reduce the total interest amount which would otherwise be paid if we continue on our current schedule.



January Calendar

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Jan. 01	The Circumcision and Name of Jesus				
Jan. 03	2nd Sunday after Christmas				
Jan. 06	The Epiphany of Our Lord				
.	Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM				
Jan. 07	Evangelism Committee Meeting, 7 PM				
Jan. 10	The Baptism of Our Lord				
in the state of th	Voters' Meeting, 11:30 AM				
Jan. 11	Rock Island Circuit Pastors' Lenten				
	Preaching Workshop, 9 AM—3 PM,				
e e	Geneseo.				
Jan. 13	Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM				
Jan. 17	2nd Sunday after the Epiphany				
	Sanctity of Human Life Sunday				
Jan. 20	Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM				
Jan. 21	Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM				
.	Church Council, 7:30 PM				
Jan. 24	3rd Sunday after the Epiphany				
Jan. 26	P.O.M. Meeting, 6:30 PM				
Jan. 27	Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM				
Jan. 31	4th Sunday after the Epiphany				
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"Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

Psalm 100:2-3



"Sanctity of Human Life" Sunday

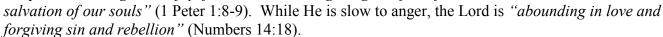
We will observe "Sanctity of Human Life" Sunday on January 17th, at the week of the 37th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision legalizing abortion. The controversy and the problem remain after all these years. We need to examine the issue from a Biblical perspective and see how the Gospel of Jesus Christ helps to define both the problem and the solution.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13.

God's Abundance

We have before us a whole New Year. Think of the abundance of possibilities and opportunities God lays before us for service to His kingdom in the minutes and hours that make up the days of the year 2010!

Abundance is a characteristic of God. He gave His only Son Who declared to us, "I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Through Him and because of the abundance of His love for us, we "are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for we are receiving the goal of our faith, the



He gives the gifts of His creation to us in abundance as well, for who can count the stars in the sky, the birds in the air, or the fish in the sea? He also pours out on His people gifts in abundance. In Romans 12:6-8, we read, "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

God has equipped and enabled us with His abundant gifts to seek out the lost, to lead and serve on committees and boards that do the work of ministry, to provide financial support for our church workers at home and in missions, and to teach and preach His Word for the salvation of souls and the edification of believers.

Perhaps you don't know where you fit into this picture. Perhaps you even think you're not part of the picture. Not so! The Apostle Peter wrote, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). By this we know that each of us has at least one gift, and that God holds each of us responsible for using that gift. Ask God to show you where He wants to use you. Go to your pastor, elder, and other church leaders and let them know you're available in this New Year to discover and use the gifts God has given you for His service.

Planned-Giving???

Do your New Year's resolutions include an expansion to your planned-giving program, or the *start* of a planned-giving program?

Long term planned-giving is for everyone, and we hope that Faith Lutheran Church is included in your plans. Please resolve to:

- Make a gift to honor a special event or a special person.
- Update the beneficiaries of your will, retirement funds, or life insurance to also include Faith Lutheran
- Donate an appreciated asset (stocks, bonds, real estate, etc.) for maximum gift impact as well as significant tax savings.
- Establish a charitable gift annuity or trust which includes Faith Lutheran Church.

Members of our congregation who could assist you with your planned-giving decisions include: Steve Becker, Wayne Becker, and Otto Schwefel.

June 15-16, 2010 — Mark Your Calendar! 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









R U Iliturit?

No, if you're reading this newsletter, you're not illiterate. But, you may be among those people who don't read as much as they should. You may spend time watching TV or listening to the radio, or even skimming over the local newspaper; but don't do any meaningful reading. I saw the following sign in a South African bookstore, "Those who *do* not read are no better off than those who *cannot* read."

When we don't take time to read some of the great literature of the world, we behave as if we're functionally illiterate. When we don't take time to read the *greatest* literature in the world, the Holy Bible, the saying could be applied, "Those who *do not* read the Bible are no better off than those who *cannot* read the Bible."

You've been blessed, through diligent teachers and parents, with the gift of being able to read. In our country, we've been blessed with the abundant availability of the Holy Bible. And, God tells us that we will be spiritually blessed through reading and hearing His Word:

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:103-105).

"You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding Word of God" (1 Peter 1:23).

For this New Year, make one of your resolutions to daily taste the "sweetness" of the Word of God.

As I've said previously, the new "Lutheran Study Bible" is an excellent way to not only *read* but *understand* God's Word. Please contact me for help in ordering a copy which would suit you best.

However, *hearing* the Word of God is also a wonderful way to experience the blessings of the Word. And, today, there are more ways than ever to easily make both hearing and reading God's Word an easy part of your daily life.

You can read and/or listen to the Bible on many cell phones, PDA's, I-Pod's, MP3 players, and personal computers. Some of these electronic forms of the Bible are free, and most that aren't free are reasonably-priced. Many will help keep track of your Bible reading progress so that you can easily follow a regular Bible reading/hearing schedule.

Check out the following web sites for information on electronic Bible reading/listening software for your particular electronic gadget:



www.olivetree.com www.laridian.com www.gobible.com www.biblegateway.com www.biblica.com/bible/audio

Pastor Fischer will be happy to assist you with selecting a program, or selecting an appropriate translation of the Bible. Some of the better translations are: NKJV, NASB, ASV, ESV, NIV (not TNIV).

Also, for a tried-and-true "Low-Tech" approach to Bible reading, please see the Bible Reading Schedule on the following page:

2010 Scripture-Reading Resolution

"Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night." (Psalm 1:1a-2)

Use the following Bible Reading Plan as-is, or lengthen or shorten the time period according to your preference. The important thing is to check-off each section of Scripture after you've finished reading it so that you can keep track of your progress. Please see Pastor Fischer for additional copies.



52 Week Bible Reading Plan

	Epistles	The Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy	Gospels
Week	(Sunday)	(Monday)	(Tuesday)	(Wednesday)	(Thursday)	(Friday)	(Saturday)
1	□ Rom 1-2	☐ Gen 1-3	☐ Josh 1-5	□ Ps 1-2	☐ Job 1-2	☐ Isa 1-6	☐ Matt 1-2
2	☐ Rom 3-4	☐ Gen 4-7	☐ Josh 6-10	☐ Ps 3-5	☐ Job 3-4	☐ Isa 7-11	☐ Matt 3-4
3	☐ Rom 5-6	☐ Gen 8-11	☐ Josh 11-15	☐ Ps 6-8	☐ Job 5-6	☐ Isa 12-17	☐ Matt 5-7
4	☐ Rom 7-8	Gen 12-15	☐ Josh 16-20	□ Ps 9-11	☐ Job 7-8	☐ Isa 18-22	☐ Matt 8-10
5	Rom 9-10	Gen 16-19	☐ Josh 21-24	☐ Ps 12-14	☐ Job 9-10	☐ Isa 23-28	☐ Matt 11-13
6	Rom 11-12	Gen 20-23	☐ Judg 1-6	□ Ps 15-17	☐ Job 11-12	☐ Isa 29-33	☐ Matt 14-16
7	☐ Rom 13-14	☐ Gen 24-27	☐ Judg 7-11	☐ Ps 18-20	☐ Job 13-14	☐ Isa 34-39	☐ Matt 17-19
8	☐ Rom 15-16	☐ Gen 28-31	☐ Judg 12-16	□ Ps 21-23	☐ Job 15-16	☐ Isa 40-44	☐ Matt 20-22
9	☐ 1Cor 1-2	Gen 32-35	☐ Judg 17-21	☐ Ps 24-26	☐ Job 17-18	☐ Isa 45-50	☐ Matt 23-25
10	☐ 1Cor 3-4	☐ Gen 36-39	Ruth	☐ Ps 27-29	☐ Job 19-20	☐ Isa 51-55	☐ Matt 26-28
11	☐ 1Cor 5-6	☐ Gen 40-43	☐ 1Sam 1-5	☐ Ps 30-32	☐ Job 21-22	☐ Isa 56-61	☐ Mark 1-2
12	☐ 1Cor 7-8		☐ 1Sam 6-10	☐ Ps 33-35	☐ Job 23-24	☐ Isa 62-66	☐ Mark 3-4
13	☐ 1Cor 9-10	☐ Gen 48-50		☐ Ps 36-38	☐ Job 25-26	☐ Jer 1-6	☐ Mark 5-6
14	☐ 1Cor 11-12	□ Ex 1-4	☐ 1Sam 16-20	☐ Ps 39-41	☐ Job 27-28	☐ Jer 7-11	☐ Mark 7-8
15		□ Ex 5-8		□ Ps 42-44	☐ Job 29-30	☐ Jer 12-16	☐ Mark 9-10
16		□ Ex 9-12	☐ 1Sam 26-31	□ Ps 45-47	☐ Job 31-32	☐ Jer 17-21	☐ Mark 11-12
17	☐ 2Cor 1-3	□ Ex 13-16	☐ 2Sam 1-4	☐ Ps 48-50	☐ Job 33-34	☐ Jer 22-26	☐ Mark 13-14
18	2Cor 4-5	□ Ex 17-20	☐ 2Sam 5-9	□ Ps 51-53	☐ Job 35-36	☐ Jer 27-31	☐ Mark 15-16
19	2Cor 6-8	□ Ex 21-24		☐ Ps 54-56	☐ Job 37-38	☐ Jer 32-36	☐ Luke 1-2
20	☐ 2Cor 9-10	■ Ex 25-28		☐ Ps 57-59	☐ Job 39-40	☐ Jer 37-41	Luke 3-4
21		☐ Ex 29-32		☐ Ps 60-62	☐ Job 41-42	☐ Jer 42-46	☐ Luke 5-6
22	☐ Gal 1-3	☐ Ex 33-36	☐ 1Ki 1-4	☐ Ps 63-65	☐ Prov l	☐ Jer 47-52	☐ Luke 7-8
23	☐ Gal 4-6		☐ 1Ki 5-9	☐ Ps 66-68	☐ Prov 2-3	☐ Lamentations	☐ Luke 9-10
24	☐ Eph 1-3	☐ Lev 1-3	☐ 1Ki 10-13	☐ Ps 69-71	☐ Prov 4	☐ Ezek 1-6	☐ Luke 11-12
25	☐ Eph 4-6	☐ Lev 4-6	☐ 1Ki 14-18	☐ Ps 72-74	☐ Prov 5-6	☐ Ezek 7-12	☐ Luke 13-14
26	☐ Phil 1-2	☐ Lev 7-9	☐ 1Ki 19-22	☐ Ps 75-77	☐ Prov 7	☐ Ezek 13-18	☐ Luke 15-16
27	■ Phil 3-4	■ Lev 10-12	□ 2Ki 1-5	■ Ps 78-80	☐ Prov 8-9	■ Ezek 19-24	Luke 17-18
28	☐ Col 1-2	□ Lev 13-15	□ 2Ki 6-10	□ Ps 81-83	☐ Prov 10	☐ Ezek 25-30	☐ Luke 19-20
29	☐ Col 3-4	☐ Lev 16-18	□ 2Ki 11-15	□ Ps 84-86	☐ Prov 11-12	☐ Ezek 31-36	☐ Luke 21-22
30	■ 1Thes 1-3	■ Lev 19-21	2Ki 16-20	■ Ps 87-89	□ Prov 13	■ Ezek 37-42	Luke 23-24
31	□ 1Thes 4-5	■ Lev 22-24	□ 2Ki 21-25	□ Ps 90-92	□ Prov 14-15	☐ Ezek 43-48	☐ John 1-2
	☐ 2Thes		☐ 1Chr 1-4	□ Ps 93-95	□ Prov 16	□ Dan 1-6	■ John 3-4
33	☐ 1Tim 1-3	■ Num 1-4	☐ 1Chr 5-9	■ Ps 96-98	□ Prov 17-18	□ Dan 7-12	John 5-6
34	☐ 1Tim 4-6	□ Num 5-8	☐ 1Chr 10-14	□ Ps 99-101	☐ Prov 19	☐ Hosea 1-7	☐ John 7-9
35	☐ 2Tim 1-2	■ Num 9-12	☐ 1Chr 15-19	□ Ps 102-104	□ Prov 20-21	☐ Hosea 8-14	☐ John 10-12
36	☐ 2Tim 3-4	■ Num 13-16	☐ 1Chr 20-24	☐ Ps 105-107	☐ Prov 22	■ Joel	☐ John 13-15
37	☐ Titus	■ Num 17-20	☐ 1Chr 25-29	☐ Ps 108-110	□ Prov 23-24	Amos 1-4	John 16-18
38	Philemon	☐ Num 21-24	2Chr 1-5	☐ Ps 111-113	☐ Prov 25	☐ Amos 5-9	☐ John 19-21
39	☐ Heb 1-4		2Chr 6-10		☐ Prov 26-27	Obadiah	☐ Acts 1-2
	☐ Heb 5-7	☐ Num 29-32	2Chr 11-15		Prov 28	Jonah	Acts 3-4
	☐ Heb 8-10	☐ Num 33-36	2Chr 16-20		☐ Prov 29-30	☐ Micah	Acts 5-6
42		☐ Deut 1-3	2Chr 21-24	☐ Ps 120-121		☐ Nahum	Acts 7-8
	☐ James 1-3	☐ Deut 4-6		☐ Ps 122-124		☐ Habakkuk	☐ Acts 9-10
	☐ James 4-5			☐ Ps 125-127		Zephaniah	☐ Acts 11-12
	☐ 1Pet 1-3	Deut 10-12	2Chr 33-36	☐ Ps 128-130		☐ Haggai	☐ Acts 13-14
46	☐ 1Pet 4-5	Deut 13-15	Ezra 1-5	□ Ps 131-133	■ Eccl 7-8	☐ Zechariah 1-7	☐ Acts 15-16
	☐ 2Pet	Deut 16-19		☐ Ps 134-136	☐ Ecc19-10	☐ Zechariah 8-14	Acts 17-18
	☐ 1John 1-3		□ Neh 1-4	□ Ps 137-139		Malachi Malachi	Acts 19-20
49	☐ 1John 4-5	Deut 23-25	□ Neh 5-9	□ Ps 140-142		☐ Rev 1-6	Acts 21-22
50	☐ 2John	Deut 26-28	□ Neh 10-13	☐ Ps 143-145	Song 3-4	☐ Rev 7-11	Acts 23-24
	☐ 3John			D Ps 146-148		Rev 12-17	Acts 25-26
52	■ Jude	■ Deut 32-34	Esther 6-10	■ Ps 149-150	■ Song 7-8	Rev 18-22	☐ Acts 27-28

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Michael Estes	1/01
JoAnn Behnke	1/04
Vary Fischer	1/07
Marilyn Heiser	1/13
Dawn Hull	1/14
Dylan Mallery	1/15
Marilyn Sturtevant	1/18
Pamela Helmkamp	1/21
Aimery Jackson	1/21
Gary Carper	1/25

ANNIVERSARIES

Nancy & Ralph Gillespie

1/06

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class, 10:30 AM

Wednesday Worship Service, 7:00 PM

Rev. Robert Fischer, Pastor

309-852-2787 (Church Phone) 309-714-1181 (Cell Phone) 309-853-5394 (Home Phone)

E-mail: pastor@faithkewanee.org Web Site: www.faithkewanee.org

Wise men (and women) still seek Him! Epiphany—January 6th



Address Correction Requested

"Behold I make all things new."

Revelation 21:5

January 2010 Newsletter