



Acts of Faith

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



January 2017

Volume 17 Issue 1


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Blessed New Year This past month of December we celebrated that first Advent, that first coming of our God. Christ was born that first Christmas morning in Bethlehem. The star shone bright, the angels sang, the shepherds marveled and Mary pondered it all in her heart. As we move into a new year, a new time that will be filled with joys, sorrows, busyness and more memories, let the words of the angels continue to ring in your ears!

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” It is the ultimate gift of God. A gift He has given, He continues to give for all. That was what we celebrated so excitedly on Christmas and that is what will continue to give us our joy in 2017. The Savior of the world has come, God has taken on flesh and He has done it all for you.

Throughout this New Year gather with us at Faith and hear the news again and again. The babe from Bethlehem grew up to die and rise. God’s forgiveness is given for you, Jesus shed His blood gave up His body for you, He guarantees to be present for you, He speaks His Word and His forgiveness for you. Though we don’t deserve it, though at times in our sinfulness we don’t want it, though we have nothing to give in return the gift is still given for us!

New Envelopes Council has adopted the use of generic offering envelopes to be used at Faith beginning in 2017. Since these envelopes no longer have dates or assigned numbers it is important that you place your name and amount on each envelope, and indicate the specific use of your gift. Return mailing labels work too. You can give your offerings monthly, weekly, or by direct deposit to People’s Bank. Check the Tithe box for general budget needs. Please take as many as you will need. Extras will be placed in the pews for visitors or if you forget to bring one.



My Offering For:

We are labourers together with God.
1 Corinthians 3:9

| | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tithe | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Offering | <input type="checkbox"/> Floral Gift |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas | <input type="checkbox"/> Easter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith Promise |

Name _____

Address _____

Amount _____

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

Our Faith family: Doris Hier, Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, and Heidi Heinrich

Friends: Rev. Wegener, Karen Wright, Judy Umbarger, and SSG Camie Kelly



Sympathy Our sympathy and prayers go out to Darlene and the Yount family on the death of Rev. Robert Yount (88) on Sunday, December 18th. He was given a Christian funeral on December 28th in Minnetonka, MN. If you wish to send Darlene a card address it to 5330 Beacon Hill Road - Apt. 116, Minnetonka, MN. 55345

What: Faith Lutheran Voters Meeting When: Sunday, **January 8th at 10:15 A.M.** Please join us as we adopt our 2017 budget, elect officers, consider a LCMS constitution amendment, adopt our mission and policy statements, review pastor’s military status, and discuss our ministries of the past year and plans for the coming year.

January's Calendar

- Jan. 01** Circumcision and Name of Jesus
Happy New Year!
- Jan. 05 Women of Faith Mtg.
- Jan. 06 Epiphany of Our Lord
- Jan. 08** **1st Sunday after Epiphany**
Voters Assembly Mtg. 10:15 AM
- Jan. 14 Undecorate the nave 8:30AM
- Jan. 15** **Second Sunday after Epiphany**
- Jan. 17 Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM
- Jan. 21 M.L. King Jr. Day Observance
- Jan. 22** **Third Sunday after Epiphany**
- Jan. 29** **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
No communion

Worship Schedule

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

January Cleaning Schedule

| Week starting | Team# | Type |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| January 01 | Team #3 | Weekly |
| January 08 | Team #4 | Weekly |
| January 15 | Team #5 | Monthly |
| January 22 | Team #6 | Weekly |
| January 29 | Team #1 | Weekly |

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

Did you know...

The Feast of the Epiphany centers in the visit of the Magi (Wise Men) from the East, most likely Persia (Iran). As the Magi were guided by the promises of Holy Scripture to find and worship the Christ Child with His mother in a Bethlehem house (Matthew 2:5-11), so does He call disciples from all nations by the preaching of His Word, to find and worship Him within His Church (Isaiah 60:3-6). With gold they confess His royalty; with incense, His deity; and with myrrh, His priestly sacrifice (Matthew 2:11). Truly they were wise men.

Altar Guild Schedule

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| January 01 | Mary Hahn | White |
| January 08 | Sharon Larson | White |
| January 15 | Marilyn Sturtevant | Green |
| January 22 | Joan Behnke/ Bonnie Nuding | Green |
| January 29 | Sharon Larson (no communion) | Green |

Weekly Ushers:

- 1st Sunday: Ray Heinrich & Kevin Hull
- 2nd Sunday: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
- 3rd Sunday: Marvin Novotny & Randy Stockner
- 4th Sunday: Mike Leezer & Wendell Hier
- 5th Sunday: Kevin Hull & Ted Sturtevant

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

If you have an article, a thank you, an idea, a suggestion, or a request for the next newsletter, give the information to the church office or send an e-mail to hahn.gary@comcast.net before March 20, 2017.

Thank You Special thanks to the Ray Robinson family for donating, and placing the new cordless candles that decorated the church's windows this Christmas season.



Thanks to all who decorated the church for the festival of Christmas.

But, now it is time to take down and store away all those beautiful decorations for another year.

Anyone who can assist in helping should meet at church on **Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 8:30 AM.**

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

Prayer Requests: Have someone or something that you would like Pastor Weber 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.

January Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Michael Estes | 1/01 |
| JoAnn Behnke | 1/04 |
| Marilyn Heiser | 1/13 |
| Dawn Hull | 1/14 |
| Dylan Mallery | 1/15 |
| Marilyn Sturtevant | 1/18 |
| Pamela Helmkamp | 1/21 |
| Aimery Jackson | 1/21 |

Baptism Dates

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Sharon Larson | 1/09 |
| Ashley Philips | 1/02 |
| Kaitlyn Philips | 1/31 |
| Cassidy Tavares | 1/10 |
| Theo Tavares | 1/18 |

Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Nancy & Ralph Gillespie | 1/06 |
|-------------------------|------|

Hymn of the month #383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

Happy 2017 Celebrating New Years is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in the hope and anticipation and perhaps even worry of what it holds.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor 9:6-15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving of years past, which will help you to change what needs to be changed, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness, and feast of the rich food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you—all of you (Matt 22:20-22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1-16).

Third, consider what the Church is and what the Church does. The Church is a mercy place. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward the neighbor. You are a member of the Church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy in showing mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the Church in and for the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev 27:1-34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the Church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

WOMEN OF FAITH

The Women of Faith will be meeting on Thursday, January 5th, at 10:00 AM at the church. They will be planning the 2017 schedule of events. Bring a sack lunch. All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to the following for donating the beautiful Poinsettia flowers for Christmas decorations:



Sharon & Ron Larson (memory of parents Price & Larson)
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Novotny (memory of Carol Guthrie)
Sandy & Ray Heinrich
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hahn (memory of parents)
Joyce Long (memory of Opal, Elaine, & Jeri Helmkamp)
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Croegaert (memory of parents)
Carol Schwefel
Cervantez Family
Joan Behnke
Paula & Mike Leezer
Jim & Carol Cook (memory of parents)
Glen & Betty Godke
Poinsettia plants may be taken home or left to adorn the sanctuary as long as their blooms last.

2017 Altar Flower Chart

The 2017 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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

REFORMATION 500TH ANNIVERSARY

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation -- a movement that ushered in a return to the pure Word of God.

Check out the resource's at LutheranReformation.org including books and gifts that commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



REFORMATION
2017 It's *Still* All About
Jesus

“A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,” *Numbers 24:17*

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Each year, eligible Thrivent members designate Choice Dollars based on their qualifying insurance premiums, contract value and volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars are funds intended to advance the missional impact of Christian organizations. Directing Choice Dollars is an easy way to help our church.

Please prayerfully consider Faith Lutheran– Kewanee when directing your Choice Dollars. To learn more and direct your Choice Dollars, contact your Thrivent representative today!

Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice for complete terms and conditions.

Wall and Ceiling Repairs Ted Sturtevant is planning to begin the repair of drywall cracks in our church's ceiling and walls after the first of January. He has the expertise, tools, and equipment to do



the job, but he needs a few groundman helpers to reduce the number of his trips up and down the scaffolding. If you are willing to lend a hand please contact Ted (853-8203) to arrange a day and time to do the work. The walls also need to be washed down to remove the dark lines of dust and soot on the walls. During this time some of the pews will need to be removed and temporarily relocated. Please be understanding if you need to find a different seating location until the job is completed.



Faith
Lutheran
Church

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