



# Acts of Faith

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



January 2019

Volume 19 Issue 1

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

## Celebrating Epiphany

Epiphany, from the Greek word epiphaneia, means an appearance or manifestation. Christians celebrate this festival each year on January 6, the 12th day after Christmas. Epiphany ends on Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins.

Epiphany marks the coming of the Magi, or wise men, to worship the baby Jesus. Because the Magi were Gentiles, Epiphany symbolizes the first recognition of Christ by non-Jews. It's a reminder that Christ came as the light — and Savior — of the whole world.

The traditional color for Epiphany is green, indicating life, growth, hope and eternity. Symbols for the season include a light, candle or star; a crown or three crowns; three gifts; and a globe. In the modern church, Epiphany has become a time to focus on reaching out and “showing” Jesus as the Savior of all people. It's also a reminder to engage in Christian community and to heal divisions among God's children with **His Word**.

**His Word** is our focus as Christians. In John 1:1 we read that Jesus Christ is God's Word in the flesh. Here at Faith we need to trust completely in **God's Word**, whether in the flesh or in the Bible.

As we observe Epiphany we read about a perfect example of leaning on God's Word for guidance. It's important for us to realize that when God guided the Magi to the new-born King, He didn't guide them directly to Bethlehem, but instead He led them to Jerusalem, and even more specifically, He led them to His Word.

In looking for this promised Messiah, the temple leaders in Herod's palace turned to God's Word in the book of Micah, which then lead them to the little town of Bethlehem. The point is, God wanted them to see that His Word would bring the answer. In the new year, we may well learn more and more to trust His Word, which brings healing, as we read from Ps. 107:20: “God sent out His Word and healed them.” Each of us has need of “healing” in so many ways. At such occasions it's our human nature to turn to our family, friends, or perhaps even the world wide web. We all have someone who will offer guidance and give encouragement, or as Google advertises, it can HELP in any way. But only **God's Word** is infallible and is always sufficient for our needs.

This year join us as we celebrate Epiphany on January 6 with the Lord's Supper. Share this good news with others as God has shared it with the gentiles, as well as Israel.



### Voters' Assembly on January 6th business includes:

- Nominate LCMS Synodical President and 1st. Vice Chairman candidates
- Adopt 2019 Budget with Proposed \$83,000 Income and \$88,600 Expenses
- Elect 2019 Officers
- Officer's 2018 reports of blessings and remaining challenges
- Provide ideas and thoughts for congregational action in the new year

Please plan to stay after the worship service for this important congregational activity.

**God bless you with a prosperous New Year!**

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

*January's Calendar*

- Jan. 01 New Year's Day
- Jan. 06 Epiphany Sunday  
with Holy Communion**  
Voters Assembly 10:00AM  
Mite box collection
- Jan. 10 WOF meeting 10:00 AM
- Jan. 12 Un-decorate the church 9:00 AM
- Jan. 13 Baptism of our Lord  
with Holy Communion**
- Jan. 18 National March for Life
- Jan. 20 Second Sunday after Epiphany  
with Holy Communion**
- Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance
- Jan. 27 Third Sunday after Epiphany  
with Holy communion**

**Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program**

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

*Altar Guild Schedule*

|            |                    |       |
|------------|--------------------|-------|
| January 6  | Kari Tavares       | White |
| January 13 | Marilyn Sturtevant | White |
| January 20 | Sharon Larson      | Green |
| January 27 | Kari Tavares       | Green |

**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

**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.



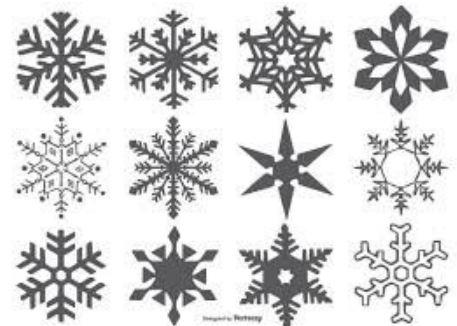
**Prayer Requests:** Have someone or something that you would like Pastor to include in either his personal prayers or in our public Prayer of the Church on Sunday morning, please fill out a prayer request, place in an envelope, and leave it in the office or hand it to Pastor.

**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.

**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](mailto:p.leezer@mchsi.com)

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

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](mailto:hahn.gary@comcast.net) before January 10, 2019



### January Birthdays

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Michael Estes      | 1/01 |
| JoAnn Behnke       | 1/04 |
| 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 Phillips  | 1/02 |
| Kaitlyn Phillips | 1/31 |
| Casidy Tavaras   | 1/10 |
| Theo Tavaras     | 1/18 |



### Wedding Anniversaries

Nancy & Ralph Gillespie 1/06

**Women of Faith:** The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, January 10th, at 10:00 AM . Nancy Tudder will host and lead the devotion. Brown bag for lunch and they will set plans for 2019 meetings.

Mites will be gathered on Sunday, January 6th. WOF ask you to support the LWML Mission Grants with your mites. Those preparing for full time church work are assuming increasing levels of educational debt in order to prepare for ministry. Debt concerns can discourage young people from entering full time church work. LWML Grant #16: Educational Loan Repayment Assistance Grants will help full time church workers to pursue their calling even in settings where their income is low, by providing help with loan repayments. This LWML grant of \$100,000 provides \$2500 toward their educational debt for each qualified full time LCMS church worker. Please keep this grant in prayer, asking for God's blessings on our church workers. We pray that they are encouraged in their work with the help of this debt repayment aid. Thank you for your prayers and your mites.



Thank you to the following for donating the beautiful Poinsettias flowers for Christmas:

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Becker (Many Blessings)  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Heinrich (Many Blessings)  
Ron & Sharon Larson (memory of Larson and Price families)  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hahn (memory of parents)  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Croegaert (memory of loved ones)  
JoAnn Behnke (memory of loved ones)  
Mike & Paula Leezer (memory of loved ones)  
Sue Cervantez (memory of Carol and Otto)  
Jim and Carol Cook (memory of loved ones)



Special thanks to Donna Becker for placing and tending to these plants.

**Council News:** The Treasurer reported the general fund balance is \$27,837.92; Designated Fund balance is \$19,925.03. The new furnace has been installed at a cost of \$12,889, and the bill has been paid. Monies from the 2018 Oktoberfest profits and designated Memorial Funds will be used to cover this expense.

The Voters' Assembly will be January 6th to approve the 2019 budget and elect officers. Also, the congregation will have the opportunity to nominate names for the offices of President and 1st Vice-President positions of the LCMS to be elected at the International Convention next summer.

Council raised the cleaning lady's salary from \$10 an hour to \$15 an hour. A 4% increase in Pastor's salary and an increase in organ playing fee was recommended for the new budget. Replacement parts have been received to install in two toilet units in the women's restrooms. Wi-Fi service at church has been terminated.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> we will have the Vicar Blanken from Holy Cross, Moline, filling in for the church service.

CID-Church Extension Fund has decided to revised our loan agreement to increased of our loan interest to 5% with a new monthly payment of \$2,095. Council recommends continuing to submit our current payment of \$3,156.46.

Next meeting will be Tuesday evening, February 19th, at 7:00 PM.



**HELP WANTED:** As much as it pains me I have to admit it is time to take down all of the beautiful Christmas decorations from our facilities on Saturday, January 12th, beginning at 9:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome to help pack away the decorations.

**Thank you** so much to the families that approved the used of designated Memorial funds to off set the expense for the new furnace and installation. These include:

**Donald Benke**  
**Opal Kuster**  
**Diane Folwer**

**Dee Ann Krahn**  
**Muriel Dilts**  
**Lois Novotny**

**Marvin Novotny**  
**Shirley Pierson**  
**Robert Stabler**

**Bernita Vancil**  
**Rev. Robert Yount**

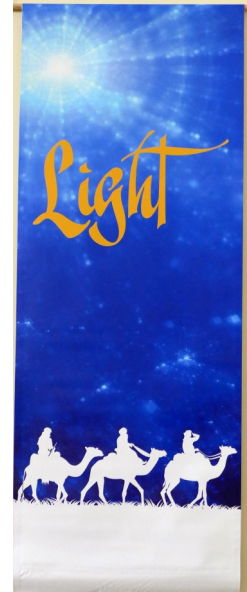
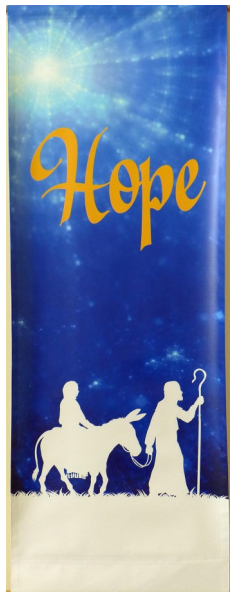


**MARCH FOR LIFE** On *January 18, 2019* people from all over this country will gather in Washington, D.C., our nation's capital, to speak out against the greatest injustice of our time, abortion, and for life. Since the 1973 Supreme Court cases, *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*, which legalized abortion-on-demand in our country, over 60 million lives have been lost. Put your faith into action and pray for those who cannot speak for themselves.

The 46th annual March for Life rally will begin at noon Eastern time on Friday, Jan. 18, at 12th Street on the National Mall, between Jefferson Drive and Madison Drive (near the Smithsonian American History Museum). Following the rally, the march will begin on Constitution Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets at approximately 1 PM.

In conjunction with this year's March for Life is the LCMS's biennial Life Conference at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel. Join LCMS Life Ministry as we proclaim God's truth that all life is sacred and that we are all "Joyfully Alive - Body & Soul" (Eph. 2:4-5). Come learn to live Christ's love amidst of a culture of death.

A big **THANK YOU** to Cheryl Snyder for creating and donating the new Advent & Christmas banners that adorned our Nave this season. They are beautiful reminders of the Advent weeks and the Christmas season.



Thank you for all your OFFERINGS and PRAYERS in 2018 to support the mission and ministry here at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. You are a generous congregation. God bless you all in the New Year!

