



Acts of Faith

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



January 2021

Volume 21 Issue 1

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

We may have been hoping that the COVID-19 pandemic would be over by now. But many of us are still experiencing its effects. Even if we aren't sick, we may be feeling COVID FATIGUE, which may include weariness, loneliness, frustration, fear, anger, and grief.

Yet, in Christ we can still have hope, joy, and peace. Martha Washington was quoted as saying, "The greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our disposition and not on our circumstances." We do not always have the power to change our circumstances. But we do have the power to change our attitude or outlook. We can adjust our disposition by doing the following:

Remember that just as God has gotten us through difficulties in the past, He can do so again. He has provided and will continue to provide the resources and support we need.

Believe that eventually, according to His timing, God will change our circumstances. We are told that a number of COVID vaccines will soon be available. We can trust that eventually this pandemic will end.

Think positive. Norman Vincent Peale wrote "Change your thoughts and you change your world." St. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8 "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about these things."

Trust that God works through all situations for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes (Romans 8:28). He gives us peace that passes understanding, hope that doesn't fail us, and strength in Christ. God may be working through our difficulties to help us grow, to rearrange our priorities, or to fashion us for better things.

Trust that God is with us always. David said to his son Solomon in 1 Chronicles 28:20, "Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the Lord God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Jesus said in John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." He gives us a full life of hope, joy, peace, strength, and contentment even when the world seems to be trying to take these blessings away. Jesus assures us in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

– Rev. Jeffrey Harter



2021

Worship Schedule

9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service

January's Calendar

- Jan. 01 New Years Day
- Jan. 03 Second Sunday after Christmas
Worship with Holy Communion**
- Jan. 06 Epiphany**
- Jan. 09 Take down decorations 9:00 AM
- Jan. 10 Baptism of Our Lord
Worship with Holy Communion
Voters' Assembly**
- Jan. 17 Second Sunday after Epiphany
Worship with Holy Communion**
- Jan. 18 M. L. King Jr. Day Observance
- Jan. 24 Third Sunday after Epiphany
Worship with Holy Communion**
- Jan. 31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Worship with Holy Communion**

Altar Guild Schedule

- Jan. 03 Mary Hahn White
- Jan. 10 Kari Tavares White
- Jan. 17 Marilyn Sturtevant Green
- Jan. 24 Sharon Larson Green
- Jan. 31 Leah Weber Green

Elders List:

- Wayne Becker: 309-853-8783
- Kevin Hull: 309-852-0801
- Ron Larson: 309-853-5111
- Ted Sturtevant: 309-853-8203

Prayer Requests: Please help to keep this list current by calling the church office or talking with Pastor when a name can be added or removed.

REMEMBER: Please contact the office and inform us of any changes of name, address, marital status, e-mail, phone, and cell phone. E-mail addresses are most important in these changing times to communicate with each other.

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

Our Faith family: Allison Leezer, Cari Bridgewater, Nancy Tudder, Cheryl Snyder, Lori Elgin, "Tootie" Godke, and Heidi Heinrich.

Friends: Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Kent West, 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.

Our World: That Lord of all will bring healing to those who are sick, comfort to those who mourn, care for those who tend and care for the ill, and bring an end to the spread of this virus.



2020 was an incredibly difficult year for everyone. We could not worship for more than three months due to the virus restrictions. Thanks to the actions of the Church Council and Pastor we were able to returned to services and Sacrament long before other churches in our community. We also say thank you to the Altar Guild for preparing the Sacrament weekly in a safe and appropriate manner. Thanks to the Landscape Committee and Donna Becker for tending to plants and flowers on the inside and outside. Thank you Pastor Weber for the extra time and efforts you made to insure our spiritual wellness and our physical well being was ministered to. Thanks to Paula for the keeping

the office going while keeping her family safe. Especially, Thanks to all the congregational members for their cooperation, contributions, and patience as we all struggle to get through this pandemic time. God bless us all again in the new year.

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
Cassidy Tavares	1/10
Theo Tavares	1/18

Women of Faith: The ladies annual Christmas luncheon was cancelled due to COVID concerns. They will meet on January 7th to work on greeting cards and set the 2021 program. Nancy Tudder will be the hostess starting at 10:00 AM. Bring a brown bag lunch.

This month we ask your support for the LWML Mission Grant, "Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction." Once the Sri Lanka multipurpose building is completed with the assistance from LWML mission grant #18, the LCMS and the CELC will be able to move forward in training local pastors, offering a welcoming worship area, and giving the congregation a chance to reestablish their preschool program. Women of Faith thank you for your mites to support the spread to the Gospel



Christmas poinsettias: Thank you for the beautiful flowers that adorned our chancel this Christmas.



Mary & Gary Hahn	Loved Ones
JoAnne Behnke	Loved Ones
Sue Cervantez	Mom & Dad
Sharon & Ron Larson	Larson & Price Families
Sandy Heinrich	Ray, My Loving Husband
Ted & Marilyn Sturtevant	Loved Ones
Paul & Heather Weber	Parents
Claudia & Bill Croegaert	Parents

Special thanks to Wayne and Donna Becker for placing and tending to the plants.

Operation Thankful was a program sponsored by Faith congregation during Advent season to assist the Kewanee Food Pantry. The Women of Faith coordinated this project as a Thrivent Financial Action Team. With the Thrivent contribution 374lbs. of pancake mix and syrup was purchased and taken to the Kewanee Pantry. On Tuesday, Dec.29th, the remain items was taken to the pantry. Thank you to all those who donated food or cash contributions to this effort. The Pantry thanks Faith Lutheran for their generosity and caring. Faith members contributed 150lbs. of food and paper goods and \$150 to the Pantry.



Right: Sandy Hill, Kewanee Food Pantry volunteer, accepts donation of pancake mix and syrup from Mary on behalf of Faith Lutheran Church.

Left: Mary Hahn and Pantry volunteer unload food items collected at church. Ted Sturtevant transported the food to the Kewanee Pantry



Faith's 20th Anniversary: In March 2021, Faith will have been a LCMS congregation for 20 years. We would like to form a Anniversary Committee to plan and celebrate this event after the Easter season next April, if the COVID-19 environment allows. Anyone desiring to have input and serve the congregation in this mission should notify Gary Hahn. We would like to begin working together soon.

HELP WANTED: Thank you for your help in decorating the church this past year. Now it is time for decoration removal, so we will be needing some volunteers' time and talents to prepare the church for 2021. Please mark your calendar for Jan. 09 at 9:00 AM and come join us.



Responding to Idols - Book Discussion (Zoom format) will start on Thursday, January 14, at 3:00 pm. The book *The Unholy Trinity: Martin Luther against the Idol of Me, Myself, and I* by Michael Lockwood (CPH, 2016) lays out Luther's multi-faceted case against idolatry and for the one saving God. This book applies the reformer's biblical insights to our times today.

CID Evangelism Executive Ken Schurb will conduct one-hour Zoom discussions of this book every other week, with a break in February. These conversations are open to all members of CID churches. Pastors and other rostered church workers are especially encouraged to participate. To register, click on the link within the article on the Book Discussion at www.cidlcms.org/news.html.

There is no cost for the sessions. In fact, CID can provide at least some registrants for these sessions a *gratis* copy of the book *The Unholy Trinity*. (Please reimburse the District \$3.00 for shipping costs.) If you register by January 3, 2021, we can mail a copy of the book early enough for you to read the introduction and chapter one before the first session on Jan. 14. Be sure to include both your e-mail address and your postal address when registering.

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.

Voters' Assembly on January 10th business includes:

- Adopt 2021 Budget
- Elect 2021 Officers
- Officer's 2020 reports of blessings and remaining challenges.
- Vote to postpone LCMS Convention until 2023. (See below)
- Provide ideas and thoughts for congregational action in the new year.

2020 Contribution Statements: If you would like to have your 2020 Faith contribution statement emailed, please send your request and email address to p.leezer@mchsi.com

2022 Synod convention: The LCMS Council of Presidents voted unanimously at their November 2020 meeting to encourage LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison to put before congregations a proposal, per LCMS Constitution Article XI B 8, to delay the 2022 Synod convention one year (to 2023), thus extending the window for district conventions to include also the calendar year 2022. Harrison also consulted with the Synod Board of Directors in accordance with Article XI B 8.

The participation of each LCMS congregation in this deliberation and decision is vital as the Synod navigates this historic vote. In a Dec. 7 letter to the entire Synod, Harrison noted: "There are two main problems: The hotel/hospitality/restaurant/convention industry is barely functioning in many places, making preparation difficult or even impossible; and government restrictions on public meetings are placing in doubt the possibility of even holding a district convention. There are currently many states in which our districts cannot legally meet. This is not about undue fear of COVID. We face a situation in which a number of districts may only be able to meet barely long enough to get a minimum amount of business done, or they may be unable to meet at all."