



Acts of Faith

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



January 2022

Volume 2022 Issue 1

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Matthew 2:11 – **“And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.”**

Epiphany is called the Gentile Christmas because we remember the Gentile Magi's visit to infant Jesus. So early in Jesus' life God was already showing that His Son came for everyone who would recognize Him for who He was regardless of their importance or nationality. Epiphany is from a Greek word, meaning to "reveal" or "make manifest." The season of Epiphany is our time to focus on the revelation of "who" Jesus is: both true God and true man. In Jesus, and in the ways He made Himself known as our Messiah at His Baptism and through His miracles, God is shining the light of His love on a dark and sin-filled world by revealing to us our Savior Jesus. Even though God has revealed the True Light in His Son Jesus, many misguided people still look for their Epiphany elsewhere. They grope around in their sin darkened world for some sort of light to show the way. As practicing Christians, we know that God exists and where He is to be found. But, for those lost souls, we must bring the Gospel of Jesus. It is a difficult task because mankind's natural sinfulness will always try to stand alone and deny God. But like a candle in a darkened room, it cannot be ignored. Shine the light of the Gospel and let God do the rest.

This Epiphany season, we need to remember the lesson that the ancient Magi taught. The star pointed not to a god above, but to the God below with us. If they had searched for a glorious king, they would have missed Him altogether. Instead they were guided to the place His Word said He would be: "In Bethlehem in Judea" for this is what the prophet Micah had written. Let's remember that the next time we are tempted to ignore the way God is and to go after the way we want. Like the Magi before us, we will not find Him in distant skies, or in palaces, or in our own minds. Instead, we must go to the place His Word says He will be, in the waters of Holy Baptism, in His Holy Supper, and in His Word proclaimed.

In Baptism we are cleansed by the water and the Word, and we are brought into the family of God. In the Lord's Supper we join at the same table at which our Lord sits and gives us ordinary bread and wine made extraordinary by the sacrifice of His own perfect life, and through which He gives us Himself for the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal salvation. In His Holy Word we hear, from the mouths of pastors, the very voice of God. His mercy and love will not be found any where else. In them we have found our light and our epiphany. God is with us. He has saved us from our sin. We will live with Him forever.



This Epiphany, come to the place where Jesus is, in His Church, in His Word, in His Sacraments. Jesus will be revealed to you in no less real way than He was to the Magi. He will come to you, not humbly as a child, but in the glorious means of Word and Sacrament. He comes to us bearing His gifts of forgiveness, grace, mercy, and life. The Wise Men came not just to see a child, but to worship Him. Come let's kneel before and worship our Savior together at Faith Lutheran.

Dear Lord, As the new year begins, we look to You for our hope, joy, and peace. Give us the courage to do all that You ask. Please strengthen us to not do what isn't from You. Show us how to walk in grace and embrace Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

January's Calendar

- Jan. 01 New Year's Day
Jan. 02 2nd Sunday after Christmas with Holy Communion
 Mite box collection
 Jan. 06 Epiphany
 Jan. 08 Un-decorate the church 9:00 AM
Jan. 09 Baptism of our Lord with Holy Communion
 Voters Assembly 10:00AM
 Jan. 13 WOF meeting 10:00 AM
Jan. 16 Second Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion
 Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance & National March for Life
Jan. 23 Third Sunday after Epiphany with Holy communion
Jan. 30 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

There will be no Elders or Council meeting in January.

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

Worship Schedule

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

Altar Guild Schedule

Jan. 02	Leah Weber	White
Jan. 09	Sharon Larson	White
Jan. 16	Kari Tavares	Green
Jan. 23	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
Jan. 30	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

USHER'S LIST

1st Sunday: Ted Sturtevant
 2nd Sunday: Nick Phillips
 3rd Sunday: Wayne Becker
 4th Sunday: Kevin Hull
 5th Sunday: Jim Cook

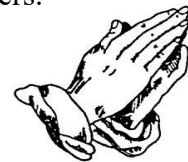
Those For Whom We Pray: Please include the following in your thoughts and daily prayers.

Our Faith family: Allison Leezer, Cari Bridgewater, Nancy Tudder, JoAnne Behnke, and John J. Hernandez.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Kent West, Katie Yarger, Jim Tudder, Jaxson Johnson, 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.



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

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

Mary & Gary Hahn	Loved Ones
JoAnne Behnke	Don & My Parents
Carol & Jim Cook	Our Parents
Sue Cervantez	Mom & Dad
Debra Fronk	Loved Ones
Sandy Heinrich	Loved Ones
Kari Taveras	Loved Ones
Paul Weber	Evelyn Weber



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



Birthdays of the Month

Michael Estes	1/01
JoAnn Behnke	1/04
Dawn Hull	1/14
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 Taveras	1/10
Theo Taveras	1/18



Women of Faith:

The women of Faith will be meeting at 10:00 AM on January 13th for a work project, sack lunch, and regular meeting. Mary Hahn will be the hostess. The year's program will be discussed.

In January you have the opportunity to offer your mites to support the LWML Mission Grant #5 for the 2021–2023 biennium, Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach. This outreach has one primary goal: to help deaf people develop a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. They provide resources and training specifically designed for deaf people to learn about the love of Jesus and to share it with others. Women of Faith thank you for your support of the Mission Grants.



Council News: Council met on December 16th to review a 2022 Budget and nominations of officers. The treasurer reported the General fund balance was \$45,058.83, and the Designated fund balance is \$18,353.87. Bruce and Heidi Godke have given \$1000 to the “Tootie” Godke Memorial and designated it for the church mortgage.

The Trustee reported the fan above the Altar has been repaired at a cost of \$125. The furnace filters have been cleaned and the sprinkler system was flushed.

Pastor reported Church secretary, Paula Leezer, has requested to be relieved of her duties for personal reasons. Council thanked and commended her for the excellent job she has done for the past years.

The congregation's lay delegate nominee for 2022 CID Convention is Ted Sturtevant, with Gary Hahn as an alternate. The nomination will be confirmed at the voter's assembly on January 9th. Pastor and lay delegate will meet in February at a Circuit Forum to elect a Circuit Visitor for the next Triennium, and may also consider overtures to be submitted for the Convention Workbook. The 60th Convention of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the 9th Convention of the CID Church Extension Fund, Inc. will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois, on July 17-19, 2022.

HELP WANTED: Thank you for your help in decorating the church this past year. Saturday, January 8th, at 9:00 AM is the time for Christmas decoration removal, and we will be needing volunteers' time and talents to prepare the church for 2022. In the past, we've had a great turnout which makes the task much easier. We can usually accomplish the work in less than 2 hours. Please mark your calendars and come join us.

Operation Thankful 2021 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 pancake mix and syrup was purchased and will be taken to the Kewanee Pantry. On Thursday, Dec.30th, the remaining items will be delivered to the pantry. Thank you to all those who donated food or cash contributions to this effort.



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.

2021 Contribution Statements: If you would like to have your 2021 Faith contribution statement emailed, please send your request and email address to p.leezer@mchsi.com

Voters' Assembly on January 9th business includes:

- Adopt 2022 Budget
- Elect 2022 Officers
- Officer's 2021 reports of blessings and remaining challenges
- Provide ideas and thoughts for congregational action in the new year
- Approve a new Church Secretary

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

Christian Citizenship in Difficult Days: God our Creator instituted government to be a means by which He preserves and orders life among fallen human beings. Government belongs to His kingdom of power. The governmental realm is to be distinguished from that of the church. Governments are instituted not to save souls, but to uphold order and provide justice. Scripture teaches that government is to reward the one who does good and to punish the evildoer (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17). In our country, Christians as citizens have many opportunities to do good in the governmental realm. Not only do individual Christian citizens pay taxes; we can also seek elected office and vote. We are able to participate in voluntary associations such as service clubs, civic improvement organizations, and political parties. We can let our views be known to our neighbors, not only government officials but others as well. By applying moral principle to public and political issues, we make a crucial contribution to maintaining justice and freedom in our communities and in our country.

An alarming number of morally decadent proposals have recently been introduced for consideration in the Illinois legislature. During its last session, for example, the legislature approved removing the state's requirement of parental notification before an abortion is performed on an underaged girl. The legislature also adopted a measure that requires the observance of new and shocking sex education standards in every Illinois public school district that offers this kind of instruction. Please note that these two examples are of legislation that actually passed, to say nothing of bills that were introduced on other subjects and may have come close to being adopted.

To assist members of Central Illinois District congregations in exercising our obligations as citizens, the District office will compile a list of ethically charged issues that are likely to arise in the 2022 legislative session. Watch for this summary, which will be available early in January on the Human Care page of the CID website, [http:// www.cidlms.org/ministry-human-care-christian-citizenship.htm](http://www.cidlms.org/ministry-human-care-christian-citizenship.htm)

Portions of the above were adapted from "Guidelines for Crucial Issues in Christian Citizenship," Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Things that use to be frowned upon as sin now strut down the street with pride. Even "professing" Christians are joining in. What is this world coming to? The End.

