



Acts of Faith

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



July 2018

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Many years ago, when we were still living in Nebraska, my wife, Julie, and I were at Wal-Mart doing some shopping. While there, I saw a sign that said gas at the gas station in the Wal-Mart parking lot was pretty cheap. I remarked to Julie that we should fill up our van while there, but she told me to look closer at the sign. When I did, I saw that, at the bottom of the sign, in the fine print, it said “with purchase of a Wal-Mart gift card.” Without a Wal-Mart gift card, you’d have to pay full price for the gas. You had to spend money in order to save some money. I was disappointed. Nothing good is ever cheap, is it?

That little incident occurred to me as I thought about the Fourth of July and the freedom we enjoy in this country. As, in this instance, cheap gas only came with the purchase of a gift card, so our earthly freedom also comes with a cost. From the Revolutionary War to the War on Terrorism, many men and women have given their lives for freedom’s sake in the 242-year history of our nation. To get cheap gas we must lay out money to get the gift card that gives us access to the cheaper gas. And, much more costly and dear to us, we must sacrifice our moms and dads, sons and daughters, friends, neighbors, and other relatives to have the freedoms we have in the United States. Those who’ve served us have sacrificed themselves for the cause, many making the ultimate sacrifice of their lives. In the movie “Saving Private Ryan,” just before commanding his officers to find Private Ryan, the General reads a letter Abraham Lincoln wrote to a woman who had lost a number of her sons in the Civil War. President Lincoln expressed his gratitude to the woman for “having laid so great a sacrifice at the altar of freedom.” Earthly freedom comes at great cost. Nothing good is ever cheap.

So too, eternal freedom. Our eternal freedom didn’t come at great cost to us. It came at no cost to us. But our Lord Jesus had to lay a “great sacrifice at the altar of freedom,” and it wasn’t even for His own freedom. He didn’t need to do anything for Himself. He was already free, enjoying all the power in the universe, all the freedom of being God, and the difficulty-free existence that comes with being sinless. But He gave it all up for a time to save us. He took on the troubles of this life, trudging through an earthly life in which others were horribly cruel to Him, patiently and painstakingly teaching ignorant men the truths of the faith so they might teach others, and shouldering the weight of all the sins of every person who ever lived. And, in the end, after all that, He was tortured and crucified. Nothing good is ever cheap. His death, our life. His suffering, our freedom. Our eternal freedom comes at great cost to Him, but, to us, it’s free. We don’t have to buy a gift card or go to war. He died to give us eternal freedom as a gift.

It’s good and right for us to celebrate our earthly freedom in this country. That freedom is God-given through the sacrifice of our men and women. But, as we view our fireworks and wave our sparklers, let’s not forget that eternal freedom also comes at a great price, to our Lord, anyway. To us, it’s a free gift. Our Lord Jesus gave His life so we might celebrate our freedom with Him forever in Paradise. Happy Fourth of July!

In Christ, Pastor Bushre

July 4th Concessions at Faith

The church welcomes the community to watch the Kewanee fireworks display from the church’s parking lot.

We will be offering popcorn, cold soda drinks, and baked goods for sale prior to the show. If you would like to contribute or help, contact Wayne Becker or show up about 7:00 PM on the evening of the fourth.



Worship Schedule
5:00 PM, Saturday Worship Service
with Adult Bible Class, 4:00 PM

July's Calendar

- July 04 Independence Day Observance
- July 07 **7th Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship with Holy Communion
Voters Mtg. at 4:00 PM
- July 08-10 CID 2018 Convention Springfield, IL
- July 12 WOF Meeting 10 AM
- July 14 **8th Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship with Holy Communion
Bible Class at 4:00 PM
- July 21 **9th Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship with Holy Communion
No Bible Class
- June 28 **10th Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship No Communion
Bible Class 4:00 PM

Notes: Pastor Bushre will be on vacation July 15 – 25. Retired pastor, Rev. Merle Warnscholz will be our guest pastor on Sat., July 21st. **Pastor Len Astrowski** of Immanuel Church, Rock Island, will be covering pastoral needs for Faith. Immanuel's phone is **309-786-3391**.

There will be no Sunday School during July or August.

Altar Guild Schedule

July 07	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
July 14	Mary Hahn	Green
July 21	Kari Tavares	Green
July 28	Sharon Larson	Green

Weekly Ushers:

- 1st Week: Ray Heinrich & Kevin Hull
- 2nd Week: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
- 3rd Week: Nick Philips & Randy Stockner
- 4th Week: Mike Leezer & Wendell Hier
- 5th Week: 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
- Wendell Hier 309-853-8388

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 July 23, 2018

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

Our Faith family: Pastor Weber and family, Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Lois Novotny, Joyce Long, Mona Kubiak, and Bonnie Nuding.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Judi Umbarger, Rev. Ken Wegener, and our troops abroad.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Steven Peart, who went to his Heavenly home on June 6th. He was an active member of St. Paul's and was given Christian burial on June 11th.

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6



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

The 59th Convention of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the 8th Convention of the Church Extension Fund will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois, on **July 8-10, 2018**. Ted Sturtevant has been appointed by the Council to be Faith's voting delegate. Pray for the CID in convention and for all Districts, congregations, pastors and church workers, and the LCMS Church as a whole—that the ministry of the Gospel may increase and God's Word have free course in the world to seek and save the lost

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

July Birthdays

July 1	Jonathan Estes
July 3	Madeline Breedlove
July 11	Kimberly Tudder
July 21	Tiffany Carpenter
July 22	Janet Estes
July 25	William Croegaert
July 26	Douglas Hahn
July 27	Julie Carpenter
July 29	Sara Nimrick

July Baptism Dates

Madeline Breedlove	7/30
Hunter Damm	7/12
Glen Godke	7/14
Vanda Hallock	7/13
Kathy Peed	7/22
Addison Talbot	7/14

Wedding Anniversaries

July 5	Glen & Betty Godke
July 24	Mark & Pamela Helmkamp
July 27	Mike & Paula Leezer

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

Women of Faith will be meeting on Thursday, July 12, at 10:00 AM at the church. Marilyn Sturtevant will be the hostess. All ladies of the congregation are invited and asked to bring their sack lunch.

At 1:00 PM the program will be a report on the 2017 LWML National Convention by Helen Vogel.

WOF invite you to put your mites in the mite box to support the LWML Mission Grant, Christian Eldercare Home in Jacmel, Haiti. Emmanuel Michele, a leader of the Premier Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jacmel, asked, "Why are American missionaries so eager to care for our children but no one pays attention to our old people?" With that idea in mind, the plan for the Christian Eldercare Home in Jacmel, Haiti, a Christian home for the elderly, was developed. This LWML grant of \$100,000 which is to be located adjacent to The Center of Refuge Orphanage will create an opportunity of nurturing interaction between "grandparents" and "children" while offering a safe and healthy environment for the forgotten elderly of Haiti. The elderly will have a church close to them, and through our mites and prayers will be cared for physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Circuit News: Two Vicarage assignments have been made in the R.I. circuit. Chad Biar, from Concordia St. Louis, is at St. John's East Moline, IL, and Alexander Blanken, from Concordia Ft. Wayne, is at Holy Cross, Moline, IL.

Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training will be held at Concordia Lutheran Church, Geneseo, on Saturday, July 28, from 8:30 to 4:00 with registration at 8:00 AM. A registration fee of \$35 will cover training materials, a vest, an ID badge, snacks, and lunch. Checks to be made out to Concordia. This LCMS loving ministry helps churches and people hurting from natural disasters.

Evangelism Outreach: Each worship service at Faith Lutheran Church confirms through the word preached the hope each of us have because of our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. We would like to invite others to come join us at Faith Church to hear this saving message. The Board of Elders and Church Council is organizing an outreach program at Faith. The congregation is asked to submit names of family members and/or associates that do not have a church home in the Kewanee area.

Names, with contact information, should be submitted in writing and enclosed in an envelope and given to the office or put in the Offering plate. It may be helpful that you also include your name, but not used if you would prefer. A letter of invitation will be sent to the family along with a Lutheran tract enclosed. Also, please pray earnestly that the Holy Spirit would be active in our efforts.

“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Gal. 5:1).

**FOR FREEDOM
CHRIST
HAS SET US FREE**
GALATIANS 5:1

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties: the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what we believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age has devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness: a license to do what we want, when we want.

This license is a submission, again, to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires, slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our sinful desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity.

In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the church.

God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents to provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord. And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves.

God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel as well as repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Council News: The Church Council has approved the purchase of a new lawnmower tractor to cut the areas around the fields and driving surfaces. Memorial monies and gifts will be used for this purchase. Thank you for Ted, Gary, and Kevin for taking care of the campus area this summer.

Roof repairs from wind damage has been completed by DeRue Construction at a cost of \$350. The main level men’s toilet needs repair, and trustees will try to repair it. An estimate is being sought to blacktop the drive to the lower level entrance, and the option will be submitted to the voters. Estimated costs are expected to be between \$12,000 and \$18,000.

A funeral pall has been purchased with the Klavon Memorial. A pall (also called mortcloth) is a cloth that covers a casket or coffin at funerals before it is brought into the Nave area for the service. It is being stored in the lower level closet on a hanger.

The Council approved an \$100 donation to the Laborers For Christ organization. A \$3200 rebate was received from the CID-CEF for 2017.

Elders and Council meetings are not scheduled for July.

“Lord, remember me” The funeral of renowned evangelist Billy Graham was a celebration — not of the preacher’s long life and many accomplishments, but of his arrival in heaven. Graham, who died at age 99 in February 2018, was confident he’d spend eternity with Jesus but knew the reason wasn’t his own status or actions. Graham knew he was a sinner in need of forgiveness. “I still need the cross,” he said. Graham added, “I am not going to heaven because I have preached to great crowds or read the Bible many times. I’m going to heaven just like the thief on the cross who said in that last moment: ‘Lord, remember me.’”

Have a Safe and Happy 4th of July