



# Acts of Faith

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



July 2019

Volume 19 Issue 7

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

**Why are you a Christian?** This question is probably already sparking answers in your mind. I would guess that a number of your answers have to do with you. What's in it for you? I am a Christian because it does (insert reason here) for me. This is how we typically think. And that's wrong.

We are Christians because of Christ. He was lifted up. He was crucified, and that sacrificial act draws us to Him. Even today, through the life of His Church, He draws us to Himself. We are called out of darkness into His marvelous light. We are drawn to be his people. We are called by and through His lifting, His suffering and death.

Called to do what? That is the real question. You see, Christianity is not about what we do, but about what our Lord calls us to do. How are we, as His people, to live in this world knowing that we are no longer part of it? This is important for us to remember, particularly as the persecution of God's people looms ever closer. Even now, the segregation and isolation of the saints is occurring here in America. Think I'm wrong? Go to work, to your acquaintances, or to the public square and boldly proclaim your faith. Then observe what happens to you, especially if you touch upon today's socially charged issues of human life and sexuality. Christians are increasingly being pushed to the margins of society. You will be told, "You can have your church, just keep it in your church." Yet, we are not called to do that. We need to be reminded and remember that we are called to be the salt of the earth, and the light in a community which is in desperate need of hearing what God desires and demands of us. Even though they refuse to recognize it, they are in need of Christ.

Today's culture has had an effect on us, almost without notice. We have allowed our lives to become compartmentalized. We are Christian at church, but when we leave the service, we often assume the role the worldly culture desires. We are expected to always be politically correct, loving in our culturally defined manner when required, and to eagerly embrace tolerance as necessary. As Christians this should not be.

The ancient name for the Church, found first in the book of Acts, is "The Way." We are called to the way of Christ, the way of life. The earliest Christian catechism, the Didache (AD. 50-120), notes this: "There are two ways, one of life and one of death, but a great difference between the two ways." The way of Christ is the way of life. He is the "*the way, and the truth, and the life.*" And we have been called to this way. It is a way of living for another, loving the other. And we love not as the world defines love, but as Christ defines love. We sacrifice as He sacrificed. We are not called to a social organization that meets our needs, we are called to a way of being. As Christians, we are called to a live in Christ each day, each week, each year of our lives.

This way of living is nothing other than love, true love. True love sacrifices. It is the sacrifice of self for another's sake. This is exactly what Christ did for you. This sacrificial love starts with those who have also been called to the Way. We are called through Christ into a community of His church to love and care for each other in this place. Too often this is lost in our isolated and hectic lives. It is now vitally important to recapture this love, especially when we find ourselves standing alone in this world. As Christians, we must provide for, care for, defend, and mentor each other.

Please pray about this. Meditate on this. Act on this for you are Christ's. He purchased you and won you over from eternal death with His precious blood. Because of Him you are a member in His Church and this community. You are on the Way, and everything hinges on this.

Rev. Len Astrowski, Pastor

Immanuel Lutheran,  
Rock Island, IL.

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

**July's Calendar**

- July 04 Independence Day Observance
- July 07 4th Sunday after Pentecost  
Worship with Holy Communion**
- July 11 WOF Meeting 10 AM
- July 14 5th Sunday after Pentecost  
Worship with Holy Communion  
Voters Mtg. at 10:15 AM**
- July 20-25 LCMS 67th regular Convention  
Tampa, FL.
- July 21 6th Sunday after Pentecost  
Worship with Holy Communion**
- July 28 7th Sunday after Pentecost  
Worship with Holy Communion**

**Altar Guild Schedule**

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

**Weekly Ushers:**

- 1st Sunday: Gary Hahn & 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

**Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program**

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



We thank the generous congregation of Beautiful Savior in Colona for offering us items from their church that is now closed. Items we retrieved included metal storage cabinet, food warmer for the kitchen, Bibles, Hymnals, Bible story books, Sunday School banners, materials, and instruments; office and sacristy items, a framed white board, manual carpet sweeper, folding table, and a paper cutter for the ladies group to use downstairs.

It is very sad to have one of our congregations in the circuit have to close their doors.

Also, thank you to Ted for the use of his truck to transport these items back to Kewanee.

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

**Our Faith family:** Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Fred Stapel, Bonnie Nuding, Nancy Tudder, Cheryl Snyder, and Heidi Heinrich.

**Friends:** Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Judi Umbarger, Ray Rumbold, Glen Quart, and all military personnel.

**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.

**R.I. Cir:** St. Matthew, Milan, and Trinity, Coal Valley, are calling shepherds to lead their congregations. Pray that God grant these congregations patience, wisdom, and discernment in this process.



## 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 27	Julie Carpenter
July 29	Sara Nimrick

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

## 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

**Congratulations:** Glen and Betty Godke on their 66th wedding anniversary, and Robert and Linda Jacobs on their 50th wedding anniversary.

**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.

**Transfer Out:** Douglas Hahn requested and was granted a transfer of membership to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Peoria, Illinois.

**Women of Faith:** The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, **July 11**, at 10:00AM. Cheryl Snyder will be hostess and lead a devotion. All ladies are invited to attend. A program by the Kewanee Historical Museum is tentatively planned.

On July 14th you have the opportunity to support the LWML Mission Grant #21, **Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips** with your mites. MOST Ministries provides for families to participate in short term missionary trips. More than 5300 short term missionaries have used their gifts in ministry to the people of the world, sharing of the Gospel in almost 50 countries, thus impacting more than 200,000 lives for Christ. The mission of MOST Ministries is to impact the world for Jesus Christ, sharing the Gospel and providing physical aid through short term missions. This grant will provide for half the cost of the trip enabling many more families to participate in sharing the Gospel. Thank you for your gifts to this mission grant project.



Old discolored candles on the left & 2 new on the right

**New Candles Dedicated:** New 10" Altar Candles were dedicated by Pastor Weber on June 2. They were purchased with funds from Elaine Price and Geraldine Helmkamp memorial funds. Thank you to the Helmkamp family, and Sharon and Ron Larson for approving the use of these funds.

The old candles have been severely discolored by wax suet and several candles had worn off threads so the brass caps could not be secured.



New candles in service to God.



**The July Voters'** meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, July 14 following the worship service. A second reading of a proposal to amend our constitution to reduce the number of required elder positions will be conducted. Officers reports of blessings and remaining challenges will be presented.

**CID News:** University Lutheran Church in Champaign is in the process of calling a new campus pastor following the retirement of Rev. Rick Milas. They hope to have the new pastor installed by the start of the academic year.

**The 67th Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod** is scheduled for July 20-25, 2019, at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Fla. The LCMS national convention affords an opportunity for worship, nurture and inspiration, fellowship, and the communication of vital information.

The convention is the principal legislative assembly, which amends the Constitution and Bylaws, considers and takes action on reports and overtures, and handles appropriate appeals. It establishes general positions and policies of the Synod, provides overall program direction and priorities, and conducts business in order to provide responsible service for and on behalf of its members.

The convention is open to the public, and there will be seating for visitors available in the hall. With large screens in the hall, visitors will be able to see and hear convention proceedings. Attendees may visit the many exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall, and guests are welcome to attend the opening worship and some evening events.

**LCMS Convention Prayer:** O Christ, when You ascended into heaven, You sent Your disciples into the world to make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and teaching them to observe everything You commanded. Bless our church body as it holds its 2019 convention.

**July 4th City Fireworks:** Faith's parking lot will be open to the public to view the city's fireworks display, but there were not enough volunteers to man a concession stand. The building will not be open for restroom use. It is hoped some members will be in attendance to insure the building and grounds and properly maintained, and for safety monitoring.



Large Geranium planters adorned the Pentecostal altar thanks to Donna and Wayne Becker, in celebration of their 64th wedding anniversary.



A group of Steve Schwefel's friends donated a Maple tree and memorial stone to remember Carol Schwefel. They are Roger Loomis, Matt Michalik, Bill Miller, Tom Curran, and Tom Iorio. We thank them for their generous gift.

**Council News:** The July Voter's meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, July 14th, following the worship service. The Treasurer reported that the general fund balance is \$24,135.60 and the designated fund balance is \$19,611.07. A total of \$164 was collected for the LCMS National Thank Offering at the convention this month.

Elders and Council meetings are not scheduled for July.