



Acts of Faith

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



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Free but United: This month we, with many other Americans, will again celebrate Independence Day on July Fourth. The American dream of independence is strong in our culture, and strong in our flesh, but it is not a part of our Christian faith. True Christians are free thinking individuals, but in faith they are united as we at Faith boldly confess each Sunday our belief, in “one Holy Christian church.” (*Apostles Creed, Article III and Nicene Creed*)

What is this church? It is all people who the Holy Spirit has gathered to Christ in faith throughout the world. The holy church exists wherever sinners gather at the font and are sealed with God’s name in Holy Baptism, wherever a called servant of Christ announces the grace of God to sinners in Christ’s stead, and wherever sinners gather in repentant joy at the altar of Christ to receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. (*Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*)

The unity of the Church has been established by God. That’s why St. Paul urges us to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” We don’t create the unity. We are called to maintain it. God has established the unity of the church, as St. Paul says: “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (*Ephesians 4:1-6*) Yes, the one true triune God establishes the one true church. From the unity of God comes the unity of the church. There is one body – one holy Christian and apostolic church. There is one hope – one heaven. There is one faith – one pure, biblical gospel. There is one baptism as we confess in the Nicene Creed, “I acknowledge one baptism, for the remission of sins.”

The fact that the church is God’s building project makes a big difference. It is a divine institution, founded by Christ himself and central to God’s plan for the ages. God will not abandon His church. He will not abandon us. God has in all times and places gathered His church by the voice of Christ through the voice of His preachers, from Adam to Christ and His apostles, and to those whom He still sends today.

Because we believe does not mean we can see or fully experience the one, holy Christian church. From an earthly perspective there does not appear to be much in which to believe. Divisions crept into the church during the days of the apostles, and they still do today. Currently, some Christians may believe that no one possesses a true and pure confession of God’s Word. Yet, the church is still here. Even now, before the final day, the church is known on earth in worship, where God gives, and His saints receive, the forgiveness offered in Jesus’ name, and we give Him joyful thanks. (1)

The world, our society and culture, and our government are rapidly becoming more hostile to God’s word and to His church. First Amendment religious freedoms and rights are today being challenged in our courts. Abortion and LGBTQ rights have been given status and funding above the unalienable rights of humans, decreed by God as written in the Constitution, preventing objections on religious grounds. (1)

Even though we walk through this dark valley, we have God’s promise that He is in control, and will guide us to greener pastures, and we shall one day dwell in the house of the Lord forever. No persecution can stop His church or put it out of business. Christ is building His church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. In His church we have His peace and promises.

Have a safe and happy Fourth and join us at Faith Lutheran.

(1) Excerpts from Lutheran Witness, ‘I Believe in One Holy Christian Church’: The doctrine of the church, June 2021, by Jason D. Lane

July's Calendar

- July 04** Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
Independence Day Observance
- July 08** WOF luncheon Noon
- July 11** Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
Voter's Assembly
- July 18** Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
- July 25** Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion

Worship Schedule
9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service

Altar Guild Schedule

July 04	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
July 11	Sharon Larson	Green
July 18	Mary Hahn	Green
July 25	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

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

July-Sept *Portals of Prayer* are now available in the Narthex. Please take one for yourself and one for a friend.

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, and John J. Hernandez.

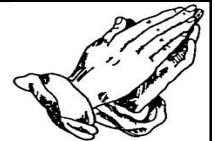
Friends: Jeff Bowman, Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Kent West, Cindy Stapel, Katie Yarger, and all military personnel and first responders.

CID: Our campus, prison, deaf, and Hispanic missions in the District need your prayers and support.

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.

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.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



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.

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

2021 Altar Flower Chart is up and available for you to sign up for altar flowers. Please consider placing flowers on our Lord's altar to remember a significant loved one or event in your life.



A big **THANK YOU** to Bill and Claudia Croegaert for all your help when we really needed it. We appreciate you both.

Ron and Sharon Larson

Special thanks to **Phyllis Weidle** for playing the organ during Cheryl's absence.





Birthdays of the Month

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

Baptism Dates

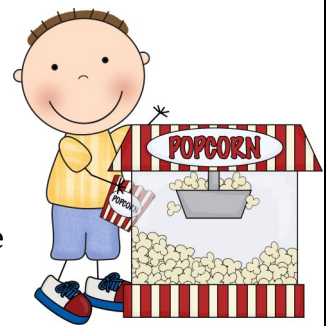
Madeline Breedlove	7/30
Glen Godke	7/14
Vanda Hallock	7/13
Kathy Peed	7/22
Addison Talbot	7/14

Wedding Anniversaries

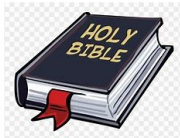
July 5	Glen & Betty Godke
July 24	Mark & Pamela Helmkamp
July 27	Mike & Paula Leezer



Faith will operate a concession stand on the evening of the Kewanee fireworks display in the parking lot. We are looking for donations of ice, soda pop, bottled water, and baked goods to sell along with popcorn. If you are willing, please indicate such on a sign up sheet in the Narthex area. If you can volunteer to work that evening it is much appreciated. We will set up about 6:00 PM. Bring your chairs to service that morning to reserve a spot on the lawn.



God will not rewrite the Bible for this easily offended generation! His Word remains the same always!



Mystery Cross Painting

The painting at the right was left at the front of the church around June 16th. It is about 4'x 6' painted on wood. There was no identification accompanying it. The council would like to acknowledge the creator of this beautiful picture, and will determine an appropriate location in the church to display it.

If anyone knows the source of this art, please share it with the Pastor or a council member.



Women of Faith: The ladies will meet on Thursday, July 08, at noon. A Christmas celebration in July will be held at Marilyn Sturtevant's home. Since the group could not meet last December, they will hold their luncheon this month with games and prizes. Please let Marilyn know if you are planning to attend.

In July WOF invite you, to support, with your mites, the Central Illinois LWML Mission Grant, Food Banks at St. Louis and Ft. Wayne Seminaries. Receiving help through the Food Banks lessens the worry about financial burdens of everyday life and may even keep a student from having to take a job to help with those expenses. Helping students and their families, in this way hopefully helps the student to focus more on his/her training. How can you help? Pray that God provides the seminary students and families support through the Food Banks with everyday life needs. Thank you for your support of this Mission Grant.



Council Action: Sue reported the General fund has \$44,523.46 and the Memorial/ Dedicated Fund has \$17,069.26 for a grand total of \$61,582.72. Sue reported a member has given \$600 directed to the mortgage balance, and these additional monies were sent along with the June payment to CID-CEF.



The Elders suggested that the church resume Communion at the rail and the use of the Chalice be renewed. It was also recommended the ribbons be removed and open seating resumed. Sunday Bible Classes will resume this fall. Organist Cheryl is recovering from her hip surgery, and would like to play again on June 27th. Phyllis Weidle was thanked for her service during Cheryl's absence.

Work on the entrance landscaping project was completed with three new plantings added. The drive and parking lot have been sprayed for grass and weeds using the church's equipment. Large cracks have opened up again in the asphalt parking area. Ted will get estimates to commercially fill these before winter. Ted requested a load of black dirt be obtained to fill voids on both north and south sides of the building. Council agreed that these actions should be taken.

A fund-raising Oktoberfest dinner was discussed and it was decided to prepare for one again this fall. Suggestions for use of the funds are requested. July 11 was selected for the Voter's Assembly Meeting after the worship service.

Stewardship Thought: Mark 4:40 – *“He said to them, ‘Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?’”*

Faith means trust. If we trust the Lord, what do we have to be afraid of? Isn't it fear that holds us back in our stewardship? Isn't it fear that stops us from following the Lord's Word to give generously toward His work in the Church? Well then, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” The Lord has proved His trustworthiness by His cross. You can trust Him.

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 8:38-39).



The landscaping area at the entrance to the church property has been renovated with new timbers, three new plantings and mulch. Thanks to Gary and Ted for completing this needed work.

Blessed
is the NATION
whose GOD
is the LORD.
Psalm 33:12

A large, solid red five-pointed star is positioned to the left of the text "GOD is the LORD." in the graphic.