



Acts of Faith

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



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Shortly, after the close of the Apostolic Age—mid second century— a catechism for the Lord’s Church was written. This document, known as the *Didache* (did-a kay, a Greek noun meaning “teaching”) and much like our own Small Catechism, was a tool to teach the basics of the faith. It starts with startlingly simple, yet powerful words: “There are two ways: one of life and one of death; and the difference between the two ways is great.” This teaching remains true to this day. There remain for us two ways: one of life and one of death.

The church of our time and of our making is in a great struggle. It is not a struggle of the *Church*, but of the church—what we as a culture decide and choose as church. The *Church* is not ours; she belongs to God and was purchased for God by the blood of the Slaughtered Lamb— Christ our Lord. Jesus Christ promises that the very gates of Hell will not prevail against His Church—His bride. The church—the one you and I create— is another matter. It is a life and death matter, not for the *Church*, but for you and me.

It is a sad thing. It is not that we don’t sin or that we can snap our fingers and somehow stop sinning when the mantle of “Christian” is placed upon us. That’s not possible. The problem is our acceptance of sin— our justification of our sin. The problem is our refusal to see it as the way of death. The problem is our refusal to stand fast for the Truth. It’s one thing to struggle; it’s quite another to embrace. So the path lies before us: struggle or embrace, life or death.

So many churches (note lower case “c”), denominations, or confessions around us demand that the church accept our sin. So many want, as the church, to sanction living together outside marriage. So many want, as the church, to bless those who fornicate. So many want, as the church, to embrace and even bless same sex marriage, transgenderism, and whatever the sexual fad *de jour* might be. So many remain strongly silent about abortion. So many want to have church with anyone, regardless of what they believe and ignoring what the Church has confessed throughout the ages. They conveniently omit the Lord’s command to “keep all things whatever I have commanded you.” They argue over any, if not all, of these things as to why they should be accepted by the church. They vote to overrule the Word and by decree move destructive and deadly behavior from the “sin” column to the “everyone does it and our community embraces it so it must be good” column. Since when has doctrine been determined by democracy? Would that would never be us!

Yes, that is what the world does around us. It embraces these things and demands we do too. We, however, are not of this world. We were bought and paid for by the Lamb— the Slaughtered Lamb. We don’t belong to this world. We belong to Him—the One who holds the keys of death and Hades. It is time we at least try to live like the people we are. We, as the church, are constantly under attack and in danger of succumbing to the allure of the world’s comforts and the father of lies. We must recognize this and be on our guard. Satan’s only goal is the devouring of our souls.

The world will hate us. It always has. Did it love the Lord? The world is the domain of death. It holds the death of the unborn as a right, the gross misuse of our bodies as a good! The world has and will hate us because we do not belong to it. We belong to Christ. We belong to life—a life that has yet to be fully manifest in us and fully lived by us. You and I cannot make peace with the world—that takes God. All we as individuals can do each day as His people is live by the way of life or live by the way of death.

The *Church* cannot die, but it may be the mantle we have dropped will be placed on others’ shoulders—only God knows. I pray we repent. It’s time we leave the church of our devising and remember our birthright. It is time we remember who we became in our Baptism— the *Church*. Know your life and forsake the way of death. Remember what your life cost the Lord who loves you. Our second century brothers and sisters knew this even in a world darker than ours seems to us. You are Christ’s and Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

Stand for the way of Life!

Rev. Leonard A. Astrowski Jr.

Pastor at Immanuel, Rock Island

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

July's Calendar

- July 03** Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
- July 04 Independence Day Observance
Concession Stand 7-9:00 PM
- July 10** Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
Voter's Assembly
- July 14 WOF Mtg. 10:00 & 1:00 PM
- July 17** Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
- July 17-19 CID Convention in Springfield
- July 24** Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
- July 31** Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
no communion



- July 03 Sharon Larson (Green)
July 10 Kari Tavares (Green)
July 17 Mary Hahn (Green)
July 24 Marilyn Sturtevant (Green)
July 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

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, Peggy Faber, Vanda Hallock, Wendell Hier, and John J. Hernandez.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Kent West, Jim Tudder, Hudson McCook, Chris Becker, Eugene Fronk, 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: Citizens of and those in Ukraine that peace may come to this land.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



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

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.



Congratulations to Pastor Paul Weber who celebrated his 25th anniversary of his ordination on June 15th, and recognized by the congregation on June 19th with a reception and gift. Thanks to the Becker's, Sturtevant's, and Cook's for making the arraignments.



Baptism Dates

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| Madeline Breedlove | 7/30 |
| Glen Godke | 7/14 |
| Vanda Hallock | 7/13 |
| Addison Talbot | 7/14 |



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| 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 |

Wedding Anniversaries

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

SAVE THE DATE: Faith's Women Of Faith will be hosting the LWML R.I. Zone Fall Rally on Tuesday, *September 20th*. They would appreciate members of the congregation supporting them by volunteering to aid in the administration and serving for the event. If you are willing to work or donate a baked good, please contact Marilyn Sturtevant or Mary Hahn. A thorough church cleaning is planned for the Saturday before and extra hands will be greatly appreciated. More details will follow. The Fall Rally theme is "Light Up the World with Christ".



Women of Faith: The ladies will meet on Thursday, July 09, at 10:00 AM. Cheryl Snyder will be the hostess for the day. They will make cards and discuss plans for hosting the R.I. Zone Rally this fall.

In July WOF focus on the Mission Grant, Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia. Lutheran Hour Ministries is sharing the Gospel with families and youth in Mongolia using audio Bibles, radio programming, outreach and discipleship materials in their language, and through youth camps. Hearing the Word of God in their language encourages and strengthens their faith. These believers share the Good News with family and friends in a country where western missionaries are not welcome. Thank you for your prayers and your mites for this Mission Grant.

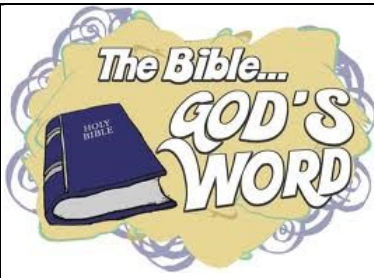
The 60th Convention of the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and the 9th Convention of the CID Church Extension Fund, Inc. will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, Illinois, on July 17-19, 2022. Conventions are held every three years by each of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's 35 districts.

Nominations for District President: † Rev. Karl Eckhoff - Christ, Peoria, IL † Rev. Mark Eddy - Zion, Taylor Ridge, IL † Rev. Michael Mohr- Holy Cross, Vandalia, IL

Pastor Weber and Ted Sturtevant will be our congregation's voting delegates at the convention. CID Convention Information and Updates are located at the CID Website. Looking for additional information visit <https://linktr.ee/cidlcms> or connect with the following items: † CID's GatePost (newsletter) † Subscribe to the E-GatePost/News You Can Use † Stay connect with us on Facebook and Instagram -- Central Illinois District-LCMS .

CIRCUIT VICARS ANNOUNCED: Kyle Moellenhoff (St. Louis) has been assigned vicarage at St. John's E. Moline and James Martin (Ft. Wayne) was assigned as the 53rd Vicar of Holy Cross for the 2022-2023 year. We pray God's blessings upon these young men during their service in the circuit.

PORTALS OF PRAYERS are available for July-September 2022 are available now. Take one and use it.



Pastor Weber will be starting a new Bible Study Sunday, July 3rd, on “*The Great Deceiver*.” Hosted by Pastor Michael Newman, this four-session Bible video study examines the most perverse character in Scripture: Satan. "Beast," "accuser" and "evil one," this "roaring lion" as the apostle Peter calls him, is adept at changing his appearance and cunning in his deceit. Popular culture may portray the devil as a cartoon character in a red jumpsuit needing our sympathy, or has having gone down to Georgia, but those characterizations only muddy the waters. *The Great Deceiver* explores a being so diabolical he will stop at nothing to separate us from God. By the very cross that took Jesus' life, God conquered Satan and sealed our redemption over sin, death and the devil by raising His Son from the dead, promising newness of life to all who believe in the saving Name of Jesus. Though defeated with his end certain, Satan is still on the prowl.

Dear Circuit Churches,

Greetings! As you are aware of by now, Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church, Geneseo, is working towards the creation of Concordia Lutheran Academy (CLA). The CLA will help to build on and expand the educational foundation in our community by offering a rich, classical liberal arts education steeped in the tradition of our Lutheran faith.

Concordia’s voters have approved to start a Kindergarten class this fall (2022-2023 School Year) and, God willing, open up more grades the next school year (2023-2024). We desire for the CLA to be done with excellence from the start and want to be fiscally responsible.



You may have seen shoe boxes in your church, which many people have helped donate new and gently used shoes in support of this fundraiser. **We thank you for your participation!** It is our hope that Concordia Lutheran Academy will have the support of our circuit churches, foremost in prayer. Donations can be given by visiting CLAdonate.com. You can call Concordia’s church office at 309-9443993 or email concordia@geneseolutheranchurch.com for more information and/or to be added to our informational CLA mailing list. You can also follow us on our Facebook page (search Concordia Lutheran Academy) where all the latest updates are posted! The CLA Creation Committee



Faith will operate a concession stand on the evening of July 4th for the Kewanee fireworks display in Northeast park. We are looking for donations of cans of 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 7:00 PM. Bring your chairs to reserve a spot on the lawn.

Treasurer’s Report: It was reported that the General Fund stands at \$47,255.25 and the Dedicated/Memorial Fund is \$13,148.29 for a total of \$60,403.54 with a mortgage balance of \$166,146.30.

CAMP CILCIA: Act Like Men Camp July 31-August 5, 2022 \$150, Men 16 year and older, prepare for a week of learning new skills (i.e. general carpentry or woodworking), competition, worship, relaxation, encouragement, Bible study, and friendship.

“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” Luke 11:28



Check out the greeting cards in the Narthex display rack. Four cards for \$3.00 you get pretty cards for your occasion and the money goes to LWML missions.

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! ”
Isaiah 5:20 (ESV)