



Acts of Faith

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



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

Have No Fear! Here are Jesus' words as He sends His disciples into the world to spread the Good News in Matthew 10. ¹⁶ "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, ²⁶ So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known."

As Christians, we too are sent with the message of God's love to a world of sinners. This is not an easy life, this life of following Christ. For one thing, the world will be against us. Even in America, land of the free, our government officials and various politicians are coming out against Christians because of our beliefs. And so, many of our Gospel readings from Matthew this summer will describe the opposition we will get from an unbelieving world. This opposition can be brutal, sometimes even deadly. But the amazing thing is, even though Jesus knows people will treat us this way, yet He also tells us, "Have No Fear of Them." So we should expect abuse because of our loyalty to Jesus, but we also have His assurance that the Holy Spirit will guide our words and actions so we need not fear those who oppose Christ.

Ah fear! Don't we struggle with fear all our lives? As young ones we fear the darkness, of being left alone, of failure in school, or not being accepted as a friend. As we grow older we fear financial troubles, we fear for the wellbeing of our children and grandchildren, we fear the declining church attendance, the moral and political decay of our society, and finally a fear of dying.

Many times we fear rejection, scorn, and even hostility if we express our faith to those who have become indifferent to God. We are afraid to speak out in the face of what appears to be overwhelming opposition to the truth. We tend to sit by when God's Word and will is ignored, being inclined to avoid conflict even with friends and family. Better to keep quiet, don't you think? Better to lay low, not disturb the status quo. Don't rock the boat, you know what I mean? What we are really doing is failing to fear God, love Him, and trust in His promises.

Jesus tells us, "Have no fear!" The most common command in Scripture. With Christ we have peace and hope with God and someday eternal life. You are never really alone when Christ dwells within you. Jesus assures us of the Father's own love. God controls our lives not because of what we do or don't do, but because Jesus died for us. For your heavenly Father will strengthen you and see you through the long hot summer of this world's hostility. The day is coming when the sun shall not strike you any longer, nor any scorching heat. So, Jesus says, have no fear of them. Instead, have all faith in God.

LCMS President-Elect Announced: The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received 52.32% of the votes cast, is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for a fifth term of office, 2023–2026.

Harrison said, "Serving as president for 13 years has made me keenly aware of my weaknesses and sins. The job has pushed me to the brink on many occasions. The personal cost to my wife and family has been incalculable. "Yet these very crosses drive us to Jesus. Thanks be to God for His blessed free Gospel of salvation in the blood of Christ! I appreciate, to no end, your prayers, and I am deeply honored to serve you, the LCMS — the church whose public confession I believe with my whole heart. It is upon that confession I shall stand on the last day before the judgment seat of Christ (FC SD VII.29-30), a sinner forgiven."

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

July's Calendar

- July 02** Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
- July 04 Independence Day Observance
- July 9** Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
Voter's Assembly
- July 13 WOF Mtg. 10:00 am
- July 16** Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
- July 23** Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion *
- July 29** LCMS National Convention opening
- July 30** Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
No Holy communion *
- * Rev. Robert Hagen will be preaching in Pastor's absence



July 02	Kari Tavares	(Green)
July 09	Sharon Larson	(Green)
July 16	Leah Weber	(Green)
July 23	Mary Hahn	(Green)
July 30	Sharon Larson	(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

PORTALS OF PRAYERS are available in three sizes for July-September 2023. Take one to use 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, JoAnne Behnke, Peggy Faber, Bonnie Nuding, Vanda Hallock, Kevin Hull, and Wayne Becker

Friends: Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, the citizens of oppressed Ukraine, 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.

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.

Thank You: To Vicar James Martin, serving at Holy Cross -Moline, for bring us the Word and leading our service on June 26. Pastor Weber and family were attending a family wedding in Texas. God's blessings on Vicar as he concludes his vicarage and returns to Fort Wayne Seminary this Fall.



Birthdays

July 1	Jonathan Estes
July 3	Madeline Breedlove
July 11	Kimberly Tudder
July 21	Tiffany Carpenter
July 21	Jaxson Johnson
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
Addison Talbot	7/14



Wedding Anniversaries

July 5	Glen & Betty Godke (70th)
July 24	Mark & Pamela Helmkamp(47)
July 27	Mike & Paula Leezer (38)

Women of Faith: The ladies will meet on Thursday, July 13, at 10:00 AM. Cheryl Snyder will be the hostess for the day. They will make cards and recap the LWML's 40th Biennial Convention held in Milwaukee, WI. Those attending should bring a brown bag lunch with them. All ladies are welcome.

In July we are collecting your mites to support the Mission Grant, Missionaries to America Project. Funds from the grant to the Missionaries to America Project will be used by Mission Nation Publishing to develop a process that will help churches reach ethnic groups within their communities. The project would equip women and men of diverse ethnic backgrounds to become new missionaries. Thank you for your mites and for your prayers for these mission projects.



Women Of Faith will be gathering components and putting together LWR **Personal Care Kits** in June and July. Faith members are asked to donate new items for these kits.

Each kit will consist of: 1-medium light-weight bath towel (20x 40 minimum), 2-bars of bath size soap (9oz.) wrapped, 1-adult size toothbrush in package, 1-sturdy comb, and 1-metal nail clipper.

The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self care, critical germ fighting supplies and the chance for our neighbors in need to regain dignity amidst fear and uncertainty. Thank you for sharing your love to our most vulnerable neighbors. A collection box will be placed in the Narthex to support this effort.

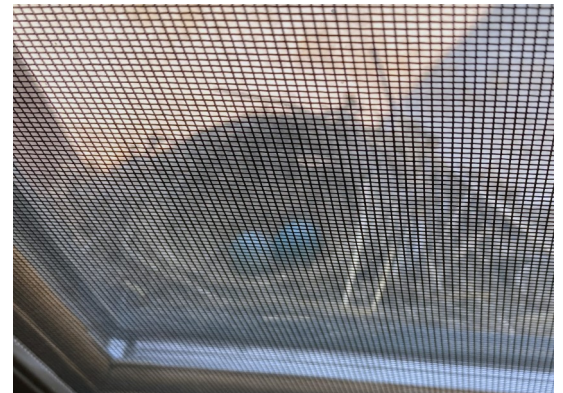


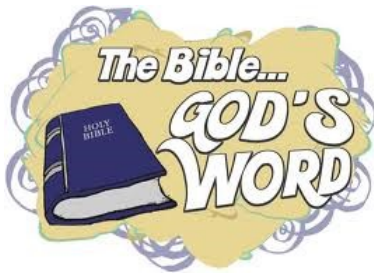
(to the left)

Women of Faith have purchased a rack to hold the Altar linens in the Sacristy, and are having additional linens sewn by Ted Sturtevant's sister.

(to the right)

A robin's nest sits on the wall ledge outside a Sacristy window on the west side of our building.





Pastor has resumed the Bible study on Christians in a Woke World: A Call to Courage, Confession and Love. Words like woke, social justice, systemic racism, privilege, and critical race theory have become part of our mainstream society. While many pundits and politicians have now begun to voice their concerns about this new ideology of "wokeness" and its impact on society, we must also be deeply concerned about the impact this ideology has on a person's relationship with Christ, and how to deal with it.

Council Notes: The treasurer's report was distributed and Sue reported that the general fund has \$51,629.06 the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$14,515.00 for a total of \$66,144.06. The church extension fund balance is \$145,293.40. May expenses exceeded income by \$1783.13. Sue confirmed that the PNB savings account was closed and the monies be transferred into the checking account. Kari's signature was added to the checking account. Three large print hymns were purchased (\$150) from the Gooch memorial.

Pastor Weber announced materials have been received with a program "Everyone a Witness" for ministry to inactives especially younger family members. This will be implemented this fall. He and Gary attended the Small Church Summit in Springfield outlining programs the LCMS has for declining congregations. The LCMS Convention will be held next month, and instructions for voting for LCMS President have been received by mail.

Ted reported a request was made to Rockford Insurance adjuster to reconsider their reimbursement based on the contractors' bid on the roof and siding repair. A mower tire was repaired at a cost of \$35. Mowing has been halted during the drought weather.

The semiannual voters meeting will be held on Sunday, July 9th after the service. After discussion it was determined to not hold a concession stand the evening of July 4th fireworks display.


Question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And he replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:18-22). When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

Answer: "No!" But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, every-thing we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life. These stations are the church, the family and society. All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties.

The station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

Best Wishes



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.



Have a safe
and happy 4th