

# Acts of Faith

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

March 2008

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## **The Stone Was Rolled Back!**

*“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead?’” (Luke 24:1-5)*

The women went out to the tomb of Jesus fully expecting to find a dead Jesus; but instead they found that the stone was rolled back, and they found an angel who announced Jesus’ resurrection. The stone which had been placed at the entrance by Joseph of Arimathea to guard the body of Jesus was augmented by the Roman guards requested by the chief priests and Pharisees. They wanted to make sure that Jesus stayed in the tomb! But the angel rolled back the stone and Jesus emerged from the tomb as the Mighty Victor over sin, death, and hell.

This is more than a nice story about springtime. It’s the most pivotal event in all human history because it reversed the certain death which had a grip on all people. Jesus rose physically from the grave! Of all the religions of the world, only Christianity cannot locate the grave of its founder because he is not dead. Buddha, Mohammad, Confucius, Zoroaster—all dead! All long since turned to dust!

Christ Jesus, the true Son of God and Son of Man, lives as the conqueror of the cause of our death—sin. In his innocent suffering and death on the cross he paid the price necessary to liberate us from the prison house of death and hell. But, that’s only half the story. The stone has been rolled away from Jesus’ tomb, but has it been rolled away from our hearts? Have we kept Jesus “dead,” so to speak, because we have kept him at arm’s length? Have we shut our hearts to the wonder of his Gospel? Have

we lived as though Jesus were still dead?

In a world filled with sorrow and grief and false religions which cannot promise redemption, much less eternal life, we have the only news that is good! We have the good news that Jesus has risen from the dead! We have the good news of eternal life to offer to those dying in their transgressions and sins. We have the good news of the cross and the empty tomb.

Death, for those who have been baptized into Christ, is in effect dead itself. It has lost its real power, the power to keep us dead for all eternity. God does not lack the power to raise our mortal bodies as well, and he has promised to do that on the Last Day. What a glorious life we have in Christ! He lives and he has already given us this new life in Holy Baptism. For us, the stone has been rolled back! Life is ours! Share this good news with someone who doesn’t know it! Share it with those who *do* know it. Good news is always good to share, and this is *great* news!

Blessings,  
*Pastor Fischer*

### *March's Calendar*

- March 2 4th Sunday in Lent**  
March 5 Lenten Supper & Fellowship,  
5:45-6:45 PM  
**5th Midweek Lenten Service, 7 PM**  
March 6 Evangelism Meeting, 6:30 PM  
**March 9 5th Sunday in Lent**  
Congregational Officer Training,  
Leave church at noon.  
March 10 Circuit Pastors' Meeting,  
Coal Valley, 9:00 AM  
March 12 Lenten Supper & Fellowship,  
5:45-6:45 PM  
**6th Midweek Lenten Service, 7 PM**  
March 13 Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM  
**March 16 Palm Sunday &  
Confirmation Sunday**  
March 18 Women of Faith, 1:00 PM  
**March 20 Maundy Thursday Service, 7 PM**  
**March 21 Good Friday Service, 7 PM**  
**March 23 Easter Sunday**  
March 26 Midweek Worship Service, 7 PM  
March 27 Church Council Meeting, 7 PM  
**March 30 2nd Sunday of Easter**  
Youth Group, 6:00 PM

### **Lenten & Holy Week Services**

During March, we're concluding our special series of Lenten and Holy Week services. The services are based on the theme of "Tears Tell the Story." The midweek Lenten services will be at 7:00 PM. A light supper and fellowship time will be available between 5:45-6:45 PM for the Midweek 5 and 6 services. The Easter Sunday service will be at 9:00 AM.

**Midweek 5** Mar. 5<sup>th</sup> Garden Tears: Jesus Grieves over His Suffering

**Midweek 6** Mar. 12<sup>th</sup> Guilty Tears: Jesus is Denied by Peter

**Maundy Thursday** Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> Remorseful Tears: Jesus' Betrayer Ends His Life

**Good Friday** Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> A Mother's Tears: Mary Watches Jesus Die

**Easter Sunday** Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> Tears of Sorrow, Tears of Joy: The Risen Jesus Greet a Weeping Friend

### *Fellowship Setup & Cleanup*

If you would be available to occasionally assist with the Sunday Fellowship time setup and cleanup, please contact Pastor or Vary Fischer.

### *Women of Faith Meeting*

Women of Faith will meet on Tuesday, March 18th, 1:00 PM. The hostess will be Opal Kuster. Devotions will be led by Vary Fischer. The program is Wedding Memorabilia. Members are to bring items and stories to share.

### *Stuck at Home?*

The snow and cold weather has kept some people from attending worship, but it hasn't kept the Postal Carrier from delivering the bills.

If you can't come to church because of the weather, please remember to still mail your offering to the church to help pay the bills and to support the Lord's work here.

If you're home-bound due to the weather (or for any other reason), and would like Pastor Fischer to bring you Communion, please call him at 852-2787 or 714-1181.

***“In the Woods... In the Word”***  
**Men’s Woodcutting Retreat**  
**March 28-30**  
**8 pm Friday – 2 pm Sunday**

Camp CILCA is sponsoring its annual men’s woodcutting retreat called, “In the Woods... In the Word.” Activities include: Bible study, devotions, meals, recreation, and cutting up dead trees. Bible studies will be led by Rev. Robert Mrosko, who is pastor at St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Decatur, IL.

The \$50 charge covers lodging in the Retreat Center, five meals and all activities. The cost is half-price (\$25) for those who bring their own chain saws or log splitters. You will need to bring your own bedding (sleeping bag/pillow) and towels. Firewood can be taken home for a donation. Add \$10 if you register less than 10 days in advance.

Go to [www.cilca.org](http://www.cilca.org) to register, or see Pastor Fischer.

***Congregational Officer Training***

The Central Illinois District will be hosting training for congregational officers, as well as for all interested laypeople.

Workshops include:

- Serving on a Congregational Board
- Elders’ Training
- Treasurer Training
- Stewardship Training
- Evangelism Organization
- Youth Leadership
- Congregational Endowment Fund Training

We will leave from church at noon on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, and return about 6:30 PM.

Registration is needed prior to event. Please contact Pastor Fischer for additional information or for a registration form.

***LWML Mite Collection***

The LWML Mites Can will be in the entry for the first two weeks in March. As has been the tradition since the beginning of our time, we invite all to help the ladies of LWML gather a good amount to send for missions. We’ve made a commendable offering over the life of our congregation, and we hope to continue this trend. We who have been given so much in the Lord, are blessed to be able to share with others. His Word will feed and nourish minds near and far. Drop in your pennies, your nickels, your dimes, your quarters, your dollars, your fivers, and even your \$20’s! We’ll make sure they get to the place where Jesus’ love is shared by all!

The Central Illinois District LWML set a Mite goal of \$65,500 for 2006-2007. The District goals include:

- Student Aid for Church Workers
- Seminary Student Aid to Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia
- Open Arms Child Enrichment Center at Lutheran Care Center, Altamont
- Scripture Witness “Cup” for Latvian Lutheran Church Soup Kitchen
- C.I.D. VBS Volunteers to Alaska
- Grace Hispanic Lutheran Mission (Quad-Cities) Radio Program

***Carpet Help?***

If you haven’t seen the new carpet, paint job, and wallpaper border in the Sunday School room, you’re invited to come and take a look. It looks great!

We’d like to spruce-up the other two classrooms. The cost of carpeting (including installation) for each room is about \$250.00.

If you would like to pay for a room’s carpeting, please contact Ted Sturtevant.

## ***Unhappy Lottery “Winners”***

*“Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction” (1 Timothy 6:9)*

Edward Ugle, in “Money for Nothing: One Man’s Journey through the Dark Side of Lottery Millions,” which was published in the fall of 2007, says that “broke lottery winners or financially troubled lottery winners are the rule.” Government lotteries have resulted in countless divorces, bankruptcies, estranged families, murders, attempted murders, drug and alcohol abuse, you name it. A recent case involved a man who tried to hide his lottery win from his wife and then disappeared when she found out (“Wife’s at a loss to find husband after he wins the lottery,” *Miami Herald*, Nov. 19, 2007).

Following are a few other examples:

- **Evelyn Adams**, who won the New Jersey lottery in 1985 and 1986 for a total of \$5.4 million, gambled and gave away her winnings and by 2001 was poor and living in a trailer.
- **Karen Cohen**, who won \$1 million in the Illinois state lottery in 1984, filed for bankruptcy in 2000 and in 2006 was sentenced to 22 months in jail for lying to federal bankruptcy court.
- **Ed Gildein**, who won \$8.8 million in the Texas lottery in 1993, gambled away most of the money and left his wife a slew of debt when he died in 2003.
- **Billie Bob Harrell, Jr.**, who won \$37 million a Texas lottery in 1997, committed suicide less than two years later after his spending habits had spiraled out of control and strained his marriage severely. Shortly before his death, Harrell confided to a financial adviser: “Winning the lottery is the worst thing that ever happened to me.”
- **Willie Hurt**, who won \$3.1 million in Michigan in 1989, spent his fortune on divorce and crack cocaine and within two years was broke and charged with murder.
- **Janite Lee**, who won \$18 million in 1993 in Missouri, filed for bankruptcy eight years later.
- **Mack Metcalf**, who won \$65 million in a Kentucky lottery in 2000, was divorced from his second wife, gave away half a million dollars to a former girlfriend when he was drunk, was sued by his first wife for unpaid child support, and died in 2003 at age 45 of alcoholism.
- **Paul McNabb**, Maryland’s first lottery millionaire, ended up driving a cab in Las Vegas.
- **Susanne Mullins**, who won \$4.2 million a Virginia lottery in 1993, could not pay her bills 11 years later and was sued unsuccessfully for nonpayment of a loan.
- After **William Post** won \$16.2 million in a Pennsylvania lottery in 1988 his brother tried to hire a contract killer to murder him and his wife. Declaring bankruptcy in 1993 he said, “Everybody dreams of winning money, but nobody realizes the nightmares or the problems.”
- **Shefik Tallmadge**, who won \$6.7 million in the Arizona lottery in 1988, declared bankruptcy in 2005.
- **Jack Whittaker**, who won \$314 million in a lottery in December 2002, was divorced by his wife, and took to drink. After he pampered his teenage granddaughter with four new cars and a \$2000 a week allowance, she died of a drug overdose.
- **Victoria Zell**, who shared an \$11 million Powerball jackpot with her husband in 2001, was penniless by 2006 and serving seven years in a Minnesota prison, having been convicted in a drug-and-alcohol-induced collision that killed someone.

From: [Friday Church News Notes](#), 1/25/08, [www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Charles Heinrich 3/01  
Katherine Cook 3/02  
Bonnie Nuding 3/08  
Erica Grabbe 3/09  
Elizabeth Godke 3/11  
Deborah Woods 3/13  
Jaxson Hicks 3/14  
Eric Cervantez 3/16  
Steven Becker 3/19

Carol Schwefel 3/20  
Muriel Dilts 3/26  
Andrew Becker 3/27  
Cindy Ganschow 3/27  
Helen Kuster 3/28  
Trenton Terry 3/31  
Mae Watson 3/31

## Anniversaries

Julie & Roy Carpenter 3/04  
Cindy & Rick Ganschow 3/10  
Sandra & Raymond Heinrich 3/15  
Mary Kay & Marvin Newman 3/18  
Vary & Rev. Robert Fischer 3/23

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship Service, 9:00 AM  
Sunday School & Confirmation Class, 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Class, Wednesday, 5:45 PM  
Wednesday Worship Service, 7:00 PM

Rev. Robert Fischer, Pastor

309-852-2787 (Church Phone)

309-714-1181 (Cell Phone)

309-853-5394 (Home Phone)

E-mail: [pastor@faithkewanee.org](mailto:pastor@faithkewanee.org)

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Address Correction Requested

*March 2008 Newsletter*

## ***Raising G-Rated Kids In A X-Rated World***

We need to help our children deal with drugs, sexuality, movies, television, video games, the Internet, terrorism, and war. Here are 10 action steps that parents can take to raise healthy kids in today's culture.

### **1. Instill belief in them.**

The beliefs and values your children will carry into adulthood are very dependent on the examples they see parents setting at home. It's critical to understand that as a parent, your actions, values, and beliefs will have the greatest influence in the life of your maturing child.

### **2. Be present in your kids' lives.**

Presence in a kid's life is spelled T-I-M-E. Parents must prioritize and reorganize their schedules to be present for their kids. When they get older, your kids won't care that you worked more so they could ride in nicer cars or live in a bigger home. They will care about how much time you spent with them!

### **3. Make memories with them.**

Our lives are a museum of memories that contribute to who we are today. So, build great family traditions at holidays, birthday celebrations, and summer vacations, just to name a few. Solidify these memories by being sure to capture them through pictures, video, and in writing through journals or letters.

### **4. Give them encouragement.**

Encouragement is food for our soul. Words are powerful. Words can either build confidence or they can destroy. Be an encourager. Catch your kids in the act of doing something right, and then take the opportunity to mention it! Kids mess up and fail all the time. Find ways to encourage your kids, despite their failures.

### **5. Be positive and caring role models.**

You are your children's role model for living life. They know what you say and how you say it. They know how you treat people. They know how you respond to conflict. Kids need you to set a positive and caring standard for living life. They need your integrity and they need you to set the pace when it comes to faith.

### **6. Give them discipline and boundaries.**

Providing your kids with consistent boundaries and discipline is all about guidance, not punishment. Giving kids too much freedom and not holding them accountable for their actions does not demonstrate love. When disciplining, be delicate. Don't discipline in anger.

### **7. Give them affection.**

Emotionally healthy kids have been given lots of proper affection. Kids who don't get adequate affection from their parents often turn to inappropriate sources of affection. And, there's plenty of inappropriate affection to be found in today's X-rated culture.

### **8. Develop responsibility in them.**

Don't always rescue your kids from their problems. Sure, there are times that we need to lend a hand and help out, but these times are, in reality, few and far between. Whenever we jump in to bail our kids out, they never learn to take responsibility for themselves and they don't have to experience consequences.

### **9. Be fun.**

In the book of Ecclesiastes it says this: One of the necessary rhythms of life is laughter. This generation of kids is totally stressed out. So, when kids see their parents injecting fun and laughter into life, it helps relieve some of the anxieties they feel.

### **10. Give them a peaceful home.**

Your kids don't need a perfect home, they need a peaceful one. Kids are battling an X-rated culture and language and values. They're battling bullies and peer pressure and body image and conforming. Your home ought to be the one place your kids feel truly safe; where they can be loved and known and cared for.

Excerpted from: [www.homeword.com](http://www.homeword.com)