



Acts of Faith

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



March 2024

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Where will you be on Easter Morning? For most of us the answer will be in church for a worship service and shouting “Alleluia, He is Risen indeed.” As Christians that is where we are expected to be. I can recall in 1978 spending an Easter sunrise in an electrical substation restoring power to a community after Good Friday tornados had ripped across central Illinois. But where did the first Easter Sunday morning occur? It was in a dark graveyard before the sun had risen. Mary Magdalen had mournfully gone there to finish the burial preparation of Jesus’ body. Jesus, the Messiah, had died. What she found was worse than her expectations could have told her. The tomb was open and His body was gone! Imagine Mary’s anguish at the tomb. There is a reason that Easter begins in a graveyard, in the deepest place of loss. No matter the cause, or the time, of a loved one’s death, it’s always the same because they’re gone, and they will never be back. All that seems to be left are the memories.

Easter begins in a graveyard as a proof to who God is. There, in the place of death, God came to comfort Mary. First with the angels, then Christ Himself appeared. God does not stand far off, or shy away from comforting us. He is compassionate toward all of our loss and pain. He’s no stranger to it, because Jesus, the Son of God, also shares our mortal life. He is acquainted with us in the way only our Creator could be, but He also became our brother. Don’t think God does not understand our physical pain or the sufferings of our heart. He feels it in His own body. We think of death as final because that’s what our heart and our experience tell us. Here in the habitation of death, God shows His great power to save in the resurrection of Jesus.

At Desert Foothills Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, the Easter Sunrise service is appropriately held outside in their memorial garden with the remains of former members nearby. The sun’s morning rays chase away the darkness of the night, just as the Son of God brings peace and confidence into our worrisome lives. Unfortunately, the early spring weather is not usually conducive to allow this service in Illinois. Standing amongst the graveyard tombs, God is the one who proclaims and delivers our only hope.

“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

The Word of Jesus proclaims and delivers that hope even in the time of darkness and despair. Because it is the Word that formed the heaven and earth, and it is that Word which will bring a new heaven and earth. Jesus did not rise for Himself, but for us, that by believing in Him we might have life. *“We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”* Romans 6:4

Death cannot defeat Christians. One day all Christians will be united again in our heavenly home praising God together with the heavenly hosts. Until then let us rejoice in all the blessings we have received, and declare “Alleluia, He is risen indeed!”

Have a Blessed Easter

With great sadness I must report the passing of J. “Wayne” Becker, beloved husband, father, and one of the pillars of Faith Lutheran Church. Wayne’s soul joined his loving creator on February 17th, 2024 at 90 years of age. He was confident in and believed what Jesus promised, *“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”* John 11:25–26

Wayne worked diligently to reconcile the problems at St. Paul’s, then was a prime mover in the creation of Faith Lutheran afterwards. He served many years on the Faith Church Council.



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

March's Calendar

- | **Mar. 03** **3rd Sunday in Lent**
 | **with Holy Communion**
 | Mite box collection
- | **Mar. 10** **4th Sunday in Lent**
 | **with Holy Communion**
 | Daylight Savings Time begins
- | Mar. 15 Elders & Council Mtg. (6:30/7:00PM)
- | **Mar. 17** **5th Sunday in Lent**
 | **with Holy Communion**
 | St. Patrick's Day Observance.
- | Mar. 19 Spring, March equinox
- | **Mar. 24** **Palm Sunday**
 | **with Holy Communion**
- | **Mar. 28** **Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM**
 | **with Holy Communion**
- | **Mar. 29** **Good Friday 6:30PM**
- | **Mar. 31** **Easter Festival**
 | **with Holy communion**



Mar. 03	Sharon Larson	Purple
Mar. 10	Marilyn Sturtevant	Purple
Mar. 17	Kari Tavares	Purple
Mar. 24	Leah Weber	Red
Mar. 28	Marilyn Sturtevant	White
Mar. 29	Marilyn Sturtevant	Black
Mar. 31	Kari Tavares	White

Elders List:

Gary Hahn 309-854-2203
 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: Gary Hahn
 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, Wayne Becker family, and Kevin Hull

Friends: Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Rev. Burnell Eckardt, 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 and Israel that peace may come to their land.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



Don't forget to direct **Thrivent Choice Dollars®** - Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support Faith Lutheran. Don't let Choice Dollars expire. Beginning January 1, 2024 eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available are asked to direct them to Faith Lutheran – Kewanee. Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. This must be done by the end of March!

Our Sympathy: Prayers and thoughts go out for Paula Leezer and her family on the death of Paula's mother. Barbra J. Kraklow, 85, of Toulon, passed away Monday, February 5, 2024. Barbra was a member of St. Paul's-Kewanee, and a friend of many of us here at Faith. We will all miss her smiling presence.

March

Birthdays

Charles Heinrich	3/01
Katherine Talbot	3/02
Addison Talbot	3/06
Bonnie Nuding	3/08
Betty Godke	3/11
Stella Nimrick	3/12
Jaxson Hicks	3/14
Eric Cervantez	3/16
Donald Bridgewater	3/20

Baptism Dates

Becky Ault	3/17
Cal Breedlove	3/06
Claudia Croegaert	3/24
Ernie Heinrich	3/04
Mark Helmkamp	3/27
Tara Hewitt	3/23
Aimery Jackson	3/16
Melissa Newman	3/13
Sandra Philips	3/01
Marilyn Sturtevant	3/19



Wedding Anniversaries

Julie & Roy Carpenter	3/04	34 yrs.
Cindy & Rick Ganschow	3/10	50 yrs.
Mary Kay & Marvin Newman	3/18	45 yrs.

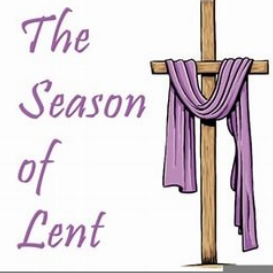
Women of Faith: The Women of Faith will meet on March 14th at 10:00 AM. Cheryl Snyder is the hostess for the month. Please bring a brown bag lunch. All the ladies in the congregation are welcome to join the WOF for making Easter greeting cards and spring kitchen cleaning.

March's LWML Mission Grant, Forged by Fire Services, strives to actively make known the love of Jesus Christ through its actions and words by providing warm meals, bottled water, and spiritual care to people in times of need following a disaster or economic downturn. They pray with those in need and offer resources such as devotionals and Bibles. This grant will allow the purchase of a mobile, self-contained kitchen trailer unit to provide meals in communities affected by disaster. When serving, Forged by Fire Services strives to connect local LCMS congregations within the communities and shares the mercy and grace of Christ, one plate of food at a time. Thank you for your support of the Mission Grants as we continue to spread God's love throughout the world.



Sunday, March 10th

Ponder how valuable your soul must be for Satan to tirelessly pursue it, and Christ to lay down His own life for it.



The Central Illinois District encourages its congregations to invite their members to contribute one dollar per member per week for missions, in addition to their ordinary offerings. This kind of over-and-above giving is called "A Dollar for Missions" (DFM).

When some individuals or congregations hear about a project because it is being supported by DFM, they may send the District a gift dedicated to that particular project. CID uses the gift accordingly. With such dedicated gifts and regular DFM money, CID funded about \$42,000 worth of projects in 2023.



A Dollar for Missions

Mortgage Interest Rebates: Even though the CID-CEF did not increase our standard loan interest rate throughout the year during a time of otherwise rising interest rates, we are blessed to again be able to award these Mortgage Interest Rebates. All borrowers qualified to receive a rebate under our standard interest rate program are eligible to earn this rebate, which for 2023 totals \$125,000. This means that around 23% of the interest paid by our borrowers will be returned to them, effectively reducing their interest rate by 23%.

Illinois March for Life will be Wednesday, April 17, 2024. This event had been set for about a month earlier, but plans have changed. As last year, Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Springfield (across the street from the state capitol building) will host a Matins service in the morning, before the rally and march, and a light lunch will be provided at a nominal cost. Precise times are being determined. This year, parking will be available to you downtown at the State House Inn, a block north of the capitol and near Trinity. However, please make plans now to carpool whenever possible.

Going Too Far: HB 4876 was introduced recently by State Representative Anne Stava-Murray (D-Downers Grove). This proposal would amend the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act by criminalizing any parent who would deny their child “access to necessary medical care, including, but not limited to, primary care services, abortion services, or gender-affirming services.” Parents who prohibit their child from getting an abortion or gender intervention “services” will be considered abusive and subject to the authority of state law enforcement and/or state agencies like the DCFS. State legislature wants to expand the power and role of government at the expense of the God-given authority of parents.

Even if you do not have young children or grandchildren, what Stava-Murray is proposing here is beyond reason. We need to call to repentance “law-makers” who demand the breaking of God’s laws and family unity. We cannot remain silent. Please consider voicing your objection to your representatives and the sponsor of HB 4876. God help us! God help our State!



It’s time to order Easter Lilies! We invite you to sponsor an Easter lily to enhance the chancel this year. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to order your lily. The price is \$10.00 with checks payable to Faith. Please mark the envelope memo line for Easter lilies and include your name.

Prison Ministry: The East Moline Correctional Center Bible Study Facilitators led by Chaplin Weber have received a grant from the CID Prison/Jail Ministry. These funds received from the LWML were used to purchase DVD’s, Bibles & Bible Study Guides entitled, “Believe”, and pamphlets from the Lutheran Hour Ministries “Connect” series both in Spanish and English. They have weekly Bible studies with 17-20 men participating. They have also held special devotional services for Christmas and Easter, with members of CID congregations also attending.

The Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne Kantorei choir, under the direction of Kantor Kevin Hildebrand, will be singing in congregations in Iowa, and Illinois on their spring tour. Tour stops include:

- March 2, Trinity, Davenport, IA, 5 p.m. (regular weekly church service)
- March 3, Holy Cross, Moline, IL, 10 a.m. (regular weekly church service)
- March 3, Our Redeemer, Dubuque, IA, 7 p.m.

The Kantorei represents the Seminary on tours and sings for daily chapel services, seasonal Choral Vespers, and other events.



Q: When and Who Wrote the Common Table Prayer, “Come Lord Jesus” ?

A: As Christians, and especially as Lutherans, many of us pray the Common Table Prayer before meals. We learn it as children, pray it at our tables at home or in restaurants. The Common Table Prayer, simple and succinct, invites Jesus to be with us in words accessible to children and still meaningful to adults. The Common Table Prayer earliest known publication was in 1698. Now we know that the prayer most likely written for a schoolbook in Leipzig, Germany, and its author is now provisionally identified as Johann Conrad Quensen, son of a Lutheran teacher and pastor. Our beloved Common Table Prayer was written as a prayer for children, its simple piety sufficient for the purpose of educating the young in a solidly Lutheran context, yet profound in its call for Christ’s presence and blessings in our lives.

Source: The Lutheran Witness, CPH, January 30, 2024, article by James Eggert