



# Acts of Faith

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



May 2021

Volume 21 Issue 5

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

**Peace I Give You:** Through the God-given gift of faith, on that first Pentecost, the disciples received a peace that surpasses all understanding. They now had the power to boldly proclaim Christ crucified. And here's the thing for us to remember today: Their peace—the peace of Christ Jesus—is also our peace. The very same peace that Christ gave to the apostles, He gives to us. The very same Holy Spirit, who brought and bestowed this peace—this confident joy of faith in Christ—comes to us today to do the same exact thing. When we come before the Lord of heaven and earth, with angels, archangels, and all the company of heaven, we receive His gifts and offer up our sacrifice of thanksgiving to Him. It is beyond all understanding. It's a peace that is known only in the humility of faith.

By virtue of our baptism into Christ, we bear the name of Almighty God on our head and our heart, marking us one redeemed by Christ the Lord, and nothing and no one, can ever take that from us. As good sheep we can trust that our Good Shepherd will keep us safe forever. Even if we might lose our life, He will restore that life on His return. ***“Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you.”*** Is.35:4

**The Equality Act** was recently passed by the House and is currently pending in the Senate. In elevating sexual orientation to a protected class, the Equality Act will bring sweeping changes to current laws, to the great detriment of the religious and constitutional freedoms of biblically faithful churches, institutions, Christian schools and individuals.

Those churches and institutions that are bound by the Word of God to the truth of marriage between a man and a woman, and that sex outside of that institution is contrary to the word of Christ and the apostles in the New Testament (1 Cor. 7:2), could be punished for simply standing on our consistent, ancient Christian beliefs. The Equality Act effectively outlaws the words of Christ, the sublime doctrine of Creation, the First Article of the Creed, and our “free exercise of religion” based upon the Bible and Apostles’ Creed.

The Equality Act will eliminate the significant protections of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, passed by Congress and signed into law in 1993. This law has provided strong protections for “free exercise of religion” in the face of overzealous officials.

The Equality Act contains no conscience protections for medical staff who choose not to perform abortions, even if they have religious objections. Because of its broad definition of “health” services, the Equality Act threatens the Hyde Amendment, which limits public funding for abortion. It also threatens Christian hospitals with elimination of funding for not performing “health” services, including abortion or genital mutilation. We encourage all LCMS people to: 1. Treat all people with kindness and respect (“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” Mark 12:31), while holding firmly to “the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). 2. Become informed about the Equality Act and the issues of gender dysphoria. 3. Consider your role as Christian citizens and make your voice known to your elected officials, particularly in the U.S. House ([house.gov/representatives](http://house.gov/representatives)) and Senate ([senate.gov/senators/index.htm](http://senate.gov/senators/index.htm)). 4. Pray for our officials, government and the church in these challenging days. Martin Luther once said, “Christ dwells only in sinners.” We recognize ourselves as sinners constantly in need of Christ’s forgiveness.

No matter the course of this or any legislation, Christ will sustain His church. Our hope is not in laws, Congress or courts. Our hope is Christ. “And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20). Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3:8–9, 13–17) *Excerpts from a Pastor Matthew C. Harrison letter. to the LCMS. Copies of entire letter are available in the Narthex.*

## *May's Calendar*

- May 02** Fifth Sunday of Easter  
with Holy communion
- May 03 Lifelight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- May 06 National Day of Prayer
- May 09** Sixth Sunday of Easter  
with Holy communion  
Mother's Day observance
- May 10 Lifelight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- May 13** Ascension of Our Lord 6:30 PM  
WOF mtg. 10:00 AM
- May 16** Seventh Sunday of Easter  
with Holy communion
- May 17 Lifelight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- May 18 Elders and Council Mtgs. 6:30 & 7:00 PM
- May 23** Day of Pentecost with Holy communion  
Hymn Festival, St. John's, E. Moline 3:00
- May 24 Lifelight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- May 30** Holy Trinity Sunday
- May 31 Memorial Day Observance  
Lifelight Bible Study 1:00 PM

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

## *Altar Guild Schedule*

May 02	Sharon Larson	White
May 09	Leah Weber	White
May 13 & 16	Mary Hahn	White
May 23	Kari Tavares	Red
May 30	Marilyn Sturtevant	White

### Elders List:

Wayne Becker:	309-853-8783
Kevin Hull:	309-852-0801
Ron Larson:	309-853-5111
Ted Sturtevant:	309-853-8203

**April – June *Portals of Prayer*** are now available in the Narthex. Please take one for yourself and one for a friend.

### **Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program**

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

**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, John J. Hernandez, JoAnn Behnke, and Lorie Elgin.

**Friends:** Jeff Bowman, Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Kent West, Bob Miller, Cindy Stapel, Sgt. Billy Steele, 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.

**The GatePost**, CID's flagship publication, is available only electronically. CID will send new issues via e-mail to subscribers. Roughly 1200 people are currently on the list. This number can grow, and it certainly should! You can sign up for the GatePost and other CID news at <http://www.cidlms.org/news-gatepost-newsletter.html>



Mary Hahn	5/01
Jenny Leezer	5/01
Jacob Townsend	5/06
Michelle Croegaert	5/11
Wendell Hier	5/15
Nancy Gillespie	5/21
Jeri Erickson	5/26
Louis "Chip" Wager	5/31

### Baptism Dates

Melisa Carper	05/27
Eric Cervantez	05/28
Ethan Cole	05/26
Cindy Ganschow	05/09
Mary Hahn	05/22
Cheryl Snyder	05/30
Miah Townsend	05/07
Heather Weber	05/10
Rev. Paul Weber	05/16

**Women of Faith:** The ladies will meet on Thursday, May 13, at 10:00 AM. Donna Becker is the hostess and everyone should bring a can of soup for Hobo Soup lunch. The program is a Bible study from the Spring Quarterly, "Rejoice, Always".

### Wedding Anniversaries

LaJean and William Breedlove	5/02
Dawn and Kevin Hull	5/23
Mary and Gary Hahn	5/24



*"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Acts 1:11*

**May 13th is Ascension Day**, an important festival day in the Church year. It occurs 40 days after Easter, and marks the day when our Lord rose into the clouds and was taken up into Heaven. It's a day that gives us reasons for great joy. One reason is the truth that the Scriptures were once again fulfilled. Just as other things about Jesus were prophesied and came true, now also His ascension. Again another proof that God's Word does not fail. Another joy is that this event marked the completion of His mission. Christ's work on earth of redeeming mankind was accomplished. A third joy is that Christ ascended to rule and to be everywhere. Now in Heaven He governs the world especially for the benefit of His Church and is always with us wherever we are. A fourth joy is that He lives forever in heaven to intercede for us. He is our mediator to God the Father and pleads and prays on our behalf before the Father's almighty throne. A fifth source of Ascension joy is that our Lord Christ returned to Heaven to prepare a place for us (John 14:3). On that day of glory for us, whether it is when Christ returns, or when He calls us home, we will have a place with him as he desires (John 17:24). The day of Ascension, like Christmas, indeed brings us many reasons to be joyful.

**Join us at Faith to celebrate this occasion at 6:30 PM without the sacrament.**



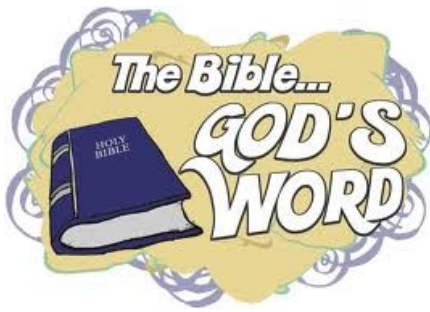
**Landscaping Ministry:** Spring has sprung and the grass is growing and so are the weeds. Our landscaping committee (Kevin Hull, Glen Godke, Ted Sturtevant, and Gary Hahn) is already working to spruce up our grounds by spraying weeds, cutting and trimming grass and bushes. Thank you for your efforts. Anyone willing to volunteer, on your own schedule, to do landscaping activities is encouraged to just "dig in". The lawn has been treated this spring to control the foxtail weeds that are so prominent.

**Graduations:** If you or your son, daughter, or grandchild is a member, or known to us at Faith and has/is graduating from high school, college, or trade school this spring, please notify us of their name, graduation date, and future plans by Monday, May 17th, to be recognized in our June newsletter.



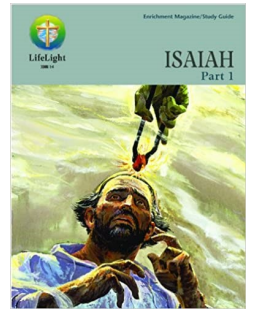
**Military Service:** Please inform the office if a family member is currently serving in the U.S. military. Provide us with their name, rank, branch of service and location so we may recognize and pray for them.

E-mail [hahn.gary@comcast.net](mailto:hahn.gary@comcast.net) or leave a note with Pastor.



**Bible Study:** Pastor is ready to resume Sunday Bible Study if everyone is vaccinated and willing to attend. Hopefully, we can begin shortly.

The LifeLight Bible study group will resume with a study of Isaiah Part 1 on May 3rd at one o'clock. If you are interested in attending this 9 week session please let Gary Hahn know. We will be socially distanced, but not masked.



**Stages of Motherhood**

4 Years Of Age – My Mommy can do anything;  
 8 Years Of Age – My Mom knows a whole lot  
 14 Years Of Age – Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either  
 18 Years Of Age – Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned  
 25 Years Of Age – Well, mom might know a little bit about it  
 35 Years Of Age – Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion  
 45 Years Of Age – Wonder what Mom would have thought about it  
 65 Years Of Age – Wish I could talk it over with Mom  
 – Author Unknown



**May 6th –  
National  
Day of  
Prayer**

**Council Action:** Now that virus vaccines are more widely available and the State of Illinois leadership has starting to ease restrictions, the Council has approved a revision of our COVID policies. Beginning May 2nd face masks shall be worn upon entering, moving around, and exiting the church building. Masks are optional when attendees are seated in the pews participating in the service. Outside the building, masks are not required, but maintaining 6 foot separation is highly recommended.

When partaking of Holy Communion family members may assemble in groups, not individually, if desired. Spoken liturgy will continue to be used. We look forward to the day that we are able to meet and greet each other without masks or fear of the virus.

**Let's go to Church:** Perhaps one-fifth of church members who have stopped attending services due to the pandemic will simply not come back, according to recent estimates. The Lutheran Confessions point out that while the righteousness of the Law makes offerings to God, faith, on the other hand, “is the divine service (latreia) that receives the benefits offered by God . . . God wants to be worshiped through faith so that we receive from Him those things He promises and offers” (Ap IV 49). Now, it is true that God's Word is powerful when people read it or hear it read at home. And the Word remains powerful when it is heard via livestream. Staying away from church, however, keeps a Christian away from the Lord's Supper.

” The Large Catechism points out that the Lord's Supper is “called a food of souls, which nourishes and strengthens the new man. For by Baptism we are first born anew. But . . . there still remains the old vicious nature . . .” (LC V 23). Again: Penitent sinners “should regard and use the Sacrament just like a precious antidote against the poison that they have in them. Here in the Sacrament you are to receive from the lips of Christ forgiveness of sins. It contains and brings with it God's grace and the Spirit with all His gifts, protection, shelter, and power against death and the devil and all misfortune” (LC V 70).

Why would a Christian not crave this gift? Indeed, why not — especially when, in the grip of a pandemic, people are fearing for their lives? Some of our churches serve great dinners. But all of them offer to poor sinners the body and blood of Christ. *CID LCMS Gatepost Issue 2, 2021*

**Did You Know?** The back pages of the Lutheran Service Book have printed the Creeds and Lord's Prayer for quick reference. Other prayers for worship are printed on the first page of the hymnal for your convenience.