



Acts of Faith

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

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Volume 7, Issue 11

“Heart, Hands, and Voices”

“Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices” (LSB #895). For more than three centuries, churches throughout the world have sung Martin Rinkart’s great hymn of thanksgiving “Now Thank We All Our God.” The first line concludes this sentence “with hearts and hands and voices.” To guide us in our preparations for giving thanks, we’ll look at this hymn stanza and Psalm 103 as we’re prepared for service with “Heart and hands, and voices.”

“Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases” (Psalm 103:1-3). With our hearts, we bless the Lord, and from our hearts and mind come remembrances of His merciful blessings. Because we belong to Him, we know that these blessings include more than outward peace, prosperity, health, or happiness. Our thanksgiving begins at the “beginning” for He (God in Christ) forgives all our iniquities! Daily he regards and treats us as he’s made us in the waters of Baptism—his dear children. Thus with a full heart of thanks we live our lives in service to God and our neighbor.

True thankfulness is an attitude of the heart, not only an expression of the lips. It’s an attitude given to the child of God by the Holy Spirit. It’s by faith that we see God as the giver of eternal life, and it’s by this same faith that we see God as the giver of all material blessings.

With this attitude toward God in our hearts, we will also express our thanks with our hands. Such honor of God will find expression both toward God and the neighbor with the firstfruits of all that God has graciously put into our hands. We will “lean not on our own understanding” in the matter of using the earthly goods entrusted to our care, but will remember that God has given the increase. A life of thanksgiving both gives glory to God while

striving at the same time to be an ever better steward of his gifts.

The child of God who raises his or her voice in praise of God’s marvelous mercy won’t limit such praise to a once-a-week worship, but will give voice to that joyous refrain every day of his life.

The message of thanksgiving to a child of God is that such thanksgiving never ends. God’s child will thank Him for all His benefits continuously with heart, and hands and voice. God’s child will also be reminded of the greatest reason for thanksgiving as we sing in the worship service with our fellow redeemed “Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right Spirit within me.” And, “restore unto me the joy of Your salvation.”

Then, like King David, we, the children of God, may also say, “Now will I teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted unto You.”

We give thanks and praise to God, and serve Him “With Hearts and Hands and Voices.”

Pastor Fischer

Correspondence

Pastor & Members,

As we have completed Beverly Swearingen's financials, we have found we will be able to honor her request of \$1,000.00 to the church's Building Fund.

Mom always took pride in her church, and it bothered her that she couldn't attend regularly in her later years. God bless you all for being there for her!

Bev Swearingen's Daughter,
Bonnie Junk

Dear Friends of Faith,

It was so good to worship with all of you, and thank you for hosting the lovely brunch. The movie "Facing the Giants" had a meaningful message for all of us, and one we can hear repeatedly.

The church is beautiful, and may you continue to grow and share God's Word with the Kewanee community. May Our Lord Bless and Keep You All.

Peace and Joy,
Bill & Nancy Terrill

To the Congregation of Faith Lutheran and Women of Faith,

Thank you so much for the wonderful visit on Sunday.

We really appreciate you making the effort to get all of the Laborers together. What a wonderful visit.

The brunch was delicious and the movie inspiring. You all have a special place in our hearts, and Sunday reaffirms the reason.

Love in Christ,
Chuck & Linda Moeller

November's Calendar

- Nov. 01** All Saints' Day
Evangelism Committee, 6:30 PM.
- Nov. 04** All Saints' Day (Observed)
- Nov. 07** Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Nov. 9/10** Jr. High Lock-in, Bloomington
- Nov. 10** Martin Luther's Birthday
- Nov. 11** 24th Sunday after Pentecost
- Nov. 12** Circuit Pastors' Mtg., Moline, 9 AM
- Nov. 13** Women of Faith, 1 PM
- Nov. 14** Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Nov. 15** Church Council Meeting, 7 PM.
- Nov. 18** 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Faith leads worship at
Courtyard Estates, 3 PM.
- Nov. 21** No Confirmation Class
Thanksgiving Eve Worship, 7 PM
- Nov. 22** Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 25** Last Sunday in the Church Year
- Nov. 26** Henry County Right-to-Life, 7 PM
- Nov. 28** Elder's Mtg., 10 AM
Confirmation Class, 5:30 PM
Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Nov. 29** Building Comm. Meeting, 7 PM

"Feed Body and Soul"

Please support the work of the LCMS World Relief with a check sent to:

LCMS World Relief
PO Box 66861
St. Louis MO 63166-9810

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thanksgiving Eve Worship will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 21st, 7:00 PM. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1).

A thankful heart doubles our blessings, causing us to enjoy them twice—when we receive them and when we remember them.

Gifts in a Jar

Women of Faith will be offering different food items for sale—cappuccinos, flavored teas, cookie, cake, soup mixes, etc. They are attractively put together in jars, and can be prepared without much additional work or ingredients. They are great for inexpensive gifts—thank-you's, friendship, birthdays or Christmas. Check them out at the LWML table in the narthex. ALSO can you help, do you have any mason jars you aren't using anymore? The women would appreciate having these for supplies for this project.

Women of Faith

Women of Faith will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 13th, 1:00 PM, at church. The hostess will be Marilyn Sturtevant. The devotion will be done by Marilyn Sturtevant. The topic will be presented by Vary Fischer will be a book report on "Katharina Von Bora" a biography of the wife of Martin Luther.

Ten Commandments or Big Mac?

Quick. Name each of the Ten Commandments. OK. Now name the ingredients in a Big Mac hamburger sold at McDonald's. According to a new survey, the Big Mac wins the memory contest. In truth, the Big Mac has advantages. There are only seven ingredients to remember, and they have a catchy jingle behind them. McDonald's Corp. has poured enough money into commercials that the decades-old jingle remains familiar today.

The survey of 1,000 Americans, by Kelton Research, was undertaken to help promote the new animated movie "The Ten Commandments." The vast majority of those surveyed could easily name the primary ingredients in a Big Mac: two all-beef patties (80 percent), lettuce (76 percent), sesame-seed bun (75 percent), special sauce (66 percent), pickles (62 percent) and cheese (60 percent).

By comparison, "You shall not kill" was known to fewer than six in ten respondents. Less than half (45 percent) could recall the commandment to "Honor your father and mother."

Even those who said they go to church at least once a week had trouble naming all of the commandments. Seventy percent recalled "You shall not kill" and 69 percent remembered "You shall not steal" but the Big Mac's all-beef patties and lettuce got more recognition from the survey group (79 and 76 percent, respectively).

Survey participants also had an easier time remembering the names of the kids from the old TV series "The Brady Bunch." The least remembered of that sextet, Bobby and Peter, had a 43 percent recognition rate, better than the two least-remembered commandments to keep holy the Sabbath (34 percent) and to not have any gods besides God (29 percent).

From: www.catholicnews.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Casidy Tavares	11/03
Mallery Tudder	11/13
Linda Jacobs	11/16
Maggie Gillespie	11/20
Micah Tavares	11/23
Lorie Hull	11/26
Kylee Conlin	11/30

Anniversaries

Lois & Marvin Novotny	11/20
Janet & Paul Estes	11/22
DeeAnn & Lawrence Krahn	11/24

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM, Sunday
Adult Bible Class &
Sunday School, 10:15 A.M.

7:00 PM, Wednesday

Rev. Robert Fischer, Pastor
309-852-2787 (Church Phone)
309-714-1181 (Cell Phone)
309-853-5394 (Home Phone)
E-mail: pastor@faithkewanee.org

**620 Hepner Dr.
Kewanee IL 61443**

Address Correction Requested

*“Let us be thankful, and so
worship God,” Hebrews 12:28*

“Top and Bottom Givers”

When giving to the Lord’s work, do you give from the top or the bottom?

The phrase, “top-giver” doesn’t refer to those who give the most, but those who give to the Lord first before they distribute the rest of their funds.

Actually, bottom-givers may at times give even more than top-givers, depending on what they have left over.

The Scripture reminds all givers: “Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce” (Proverbs 3:9); and “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

The attitude of top-givers is also characteristic of top-feeders. Top-feeders place God’s Word first in their lives:

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you (Matthew 6:33).

“One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple” (Psalm 27:4).

“Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. (Psalms 73:25)

On the other hand, bottom-feeders make time for God’s Word if nothing else is crowding their busy schedule. They make God’s word an afterthought, not a priority.

The truth is that our flesh is always a bottom-feeding bottom giver, and the spirit or new man in us is always a top-feeding top-giver. With our spirit we say, “O LORD, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.” (Psalms 26:8). However, when speaking about the sinful desires of our flesh we say with Paul, “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out” (Romans 7:18).

But when we speak according to the desire of our souls born again in Baptism, Paul says: “But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code” (Romans 7:6).

Every day, our new man must strive to come forth, put off the deeds of the flesh, and be renewed by the Words of the Holy Spirit:

“We were buried therefore with [Christ] 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).

“...Seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator” (Colossians 3:9-10)

If you haven’t thought about being a top-feeding top-giver, it’s really not about increasing the amount you give as much as changing the attitude with which you give for the Lord’s work and about giving God’s Word the highest priority in your life.

Christ has already made each of us His highest priority.

Christ made you His highest priority when He gave up the top place in heaven at His Father’s side, and was given the lowest place in this sinful world. “But [Christ] made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:7-8).

We’re at the top of his priorities, and the top of his love.

From: www.reclaimingwalther.org

***Foster child to be taken away because Christian
couple refuse to teach him homosexuality is acceptable***

They are devoted foster parents with an unblemished record of caring for almost 30 vulnerable children. But Vincent and Pauline Matherick will this week have their latest foster son taken away because they have refused to sign new sexual equality regulations.

To do so, they claim, would force them to promote homosexuality and go against their Christian faith. The 11-year-old boy, who has been in their care for two years, will be placed in a council hostel this week and the Mathericks will no longer be given children to look after.

The devastated couple, who have three grown up children of their own, became foster parents in 2001 and have since cared for 28 children at their home in Chard, Somerset.

Earlier this year, Somerset County Council's social services department asked them to sign a contract to implement Labour's new Sexual Orientation Regulations, part of the Equality Act 2006, which make discrimination on the grounds of sexuality illegal.

Officials told the couple that under the regulations they would be required to discuss same-sex relationships with children as young as 11 and tell them that gay partnerships were just as acceptable as heterosexual marriages. They could also be required to take teenagers to gay association meetings. When the Mathericks objected, they were told they would be taken off the register of foster parents. The Mathericks have decided to resign rather than face the humiliation of being expelled.

Mr. Matherick, a 65-year-old retired travel agent and a primary school governor, said: "I simply could not agree to do it because it is against my central beliefs. We have never discriminated against anybody but I cannot preach the benefits of homosexuality when I believe it is against the word of God."

Mrs. Matherick, 61, said they had asked if they could continue looking after their foster son until he is found a permanent home, but officials refused and he will be placed in a council hostel on Friday. She said: "He was very upset to begin with. We are all very close, but he's a mature young man and he's dealing with it."

When the couple first started fostering they took in young single mothers and their babies. More recently they have been caring for children of primary school age. Religious campaigners say the couple are the latest victims of an equality drive which puts gay rights above religious beliefs. Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders have complained that the rules force them to overturn long-held beliefs.

The Mathericks are planning to fight their case in the courts with the backing of the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship. The same organization is backing Christian magistrate Andrew McClintock who resigned from the family courts in a row over gay adoption. He says he was forced to resign because he was not allowed to opt out of cases where he might have to send a child to live with gay parents.

From: www.dailymail.co.uk