



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

What is truth?

“Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.” Eph. 5:11

What deceptive and divisive days we are encountering! It is all so disheartening and fruitless. Heated arguments develop over the “right” way to handle the pandemic, the benefits or even personal virtue of wearing masks or not, and the “true” science behind it all. At the same time accusations fly regarding who is “responsible” for the hundreds of thousands of deaths or the struggling economy.

The nation is divided on whether systemic racism and social injustice is rampant or if there may be other factors contributing to socioeconomic inequities and experiential disparities. People take strong positions on whether they believe we as a nation are as deeply racist as in the 60s or if the majority of people actually do judge people “not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.”

Hostilities arise when lines are drawn between those who believe that rioting and looting, attacking and killing police officers, and taking over municipalities to disallow law enforcement are a natural, necessary response to wide-spread injustice or if these represent an unjustified and irrational overreaction to the horrific acts of isolated individuals.

When one sees the posts on Facebook and continues to read the sometimes mean-spirited comments which attack the character or motives of others, it is disturbing. When one watches the clearly biased news from the left and the right picking and choosing what they will report and how, or sees how they often report things out of context and with the support of half-truths, it is clear that we are being deceived. And you know who is behind it right? No it is not TRUMP or BIDEN. It is not PELOSI or MCCONNELL. It is not even CNN or FOX. It is SATAN. And he is reveling in all of the division, self-righteous accusations, hatred and violence that is taking hold of us.

To be honest, with so many things going on and the opposing views which are presented as fact, I am sometimes left asking with Pilate: “What is truth?”

I encourage all of you, as God’s redeemed people to take off your blinders and try to put aside whatever political or ideological filters you have been wearing. Do not allow yourself to embrace the open defamation of others or to assume the worst when it comes to people’s motives. Do not simply go along with a story or a post because it agrees with your agenda without considering if it is fair, legitimate and truthfully supported. Listen to one another without judgment or accusation and have civil conversations that are intended to heal, establish unity in Christ, and help your neighbor.

Consider these words from Ephesians 5: “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.”

I exhort you in Christ, to give attention to these words and to apply them to your continued consumption of information and to your discourse regarding what is going on in this fallen world. Do not let the deceiver get his hooks in you, but always seek what is good, right, true and pleasing to the Lord. In all things remember to speak the TRUTH in LOVE.

Rev. Ken Umbarger, St. John’s, East Moline

Worship Schedule

9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service

November's Calendar

- Nov. 01 **All Saints' Sunday**
Worship with Holy Communion
Daylight Saving Time ends
- Nov. 02 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Nov. 03 Election Day
- Nov. 08 **23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship with Holy Communion
- Nov. 09 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day Observance
- Nov. 12 WOF Meeting 10:00AM
- Nov. 15 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**
Worship with Holy Communion
- Nov. 16 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Nov. 17 Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM
- Nov. 22 **Last Sunday of Church Year**
Worship with Holy Communion
- Nov. 25 **Observance of Thanksgiving Day**
- Nov. 29 **First Sunday of Advent**
Worship No communion

Altar Guild Schedule

- Nov. 01 Kari Tavares White
- Nov. 08 Mary Hahn Green
- Nov. 15 Marilyn Sturtevant Green
- Nov. 22 Leah Weber Green
- Nov. 29 Sharon Larson Blue

Elders List:

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

Prayer Requests: Please help to keep this list current by calling the church office or talking with Pastor when a name can be added or removed.

REMEMBER: Please contact the office and inform us of any changes of name, address, marital status, e-mail, phone, and cell phone. E-mail addresses are most important in these changing times to communicate with each other.

We thank **Vicar Michael Wilke** for leading services on October 25 during Pastor's absence. Vicar is serving at St. John's Lutheran, in East Moline.

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, and Heidi Heinrich.

Friends: Sue Copeland, Ron Pettit, Lacey Hammons, Barbra Kraklow, Kent West, 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.

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.



On October 11 we celebrated the baptism of Knox Cade, son of Kaitlin (Phillips) Johnson. Sponsors were Ashley Phillips and Ryan Johnson. Grandparents are Nick and Sandy Phillips.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," *Matthew 28:19*

Faith Advent services are being planned for the first three Thursday evenings in December starting at 6:30 pm.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 3 Casidy Tavares
 November 13 Mallery Tudder
 November 16 Linda Jacobs
 November 18 Spencer Clapper
 November 20 Maggie Gillespie
 November 23 Micah Tavares
 November 26 Lorie Elgin
 November 30 Kylee Conlin

Wedding Anniversaries

November 22 Paul and Janet Estes

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

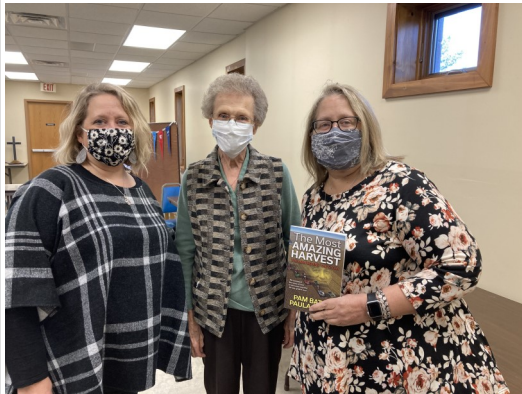
Station	City, State	Freq.	Day & Time
WKEI	Kewanee, IL	1450 AM	Sun 5:30 AM

Baptism Dates

Jemma Cade	11/25
Madison Carpenter	11/23
Tiffany Carpenter	11/12
Myrene Carper	11/18
Olive Cervantez	11/11
Lorie Elgin	11/06
Kelly Gillespie	11/08
Larry Gillespie	11/08
Maggie Gillespie	11/08
Yancy Gillespie	11/08
Gary Hahn	11/17
Sandra Heinrich	11/16
Kamdyn Hicks	11/25
Kevin Hull	11/06
Tinsley Newman	11/09
Taylor Talbot	11/17

Women of Faith: The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, **November 12th**, at 10:00AM, to work on greeting cards. Nancy is the hostess. Bring a can of soup to make Hobo Stew for lunch and Bible Study follows.

The ladies held a **Dandy Diaper Drive** in October in conjunction with Thrivent Financial Action Team. Disposable diapers (any size) will be collected in the Narthex through Sunday, November 1st. All diapers will be donated to the Henry/Stark County Health Departments for distribution to needy families in the area.



Left: Yvonne Wegener invited authors Pam Bates and Paula Patty of Most Amazing Harvest to speak at the October meeting of WOF.

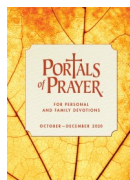
Right: WOF collecting disposable diapers for Henry /Stark Counties Health Dept.



Turn those clocks back one hour on Saturday night, October 31 before going to bed as DST ends 11/01.

Portals of Prayer:

Issues for Oct.-Dec. are available in the Narthex with different print sizes. Please help yourself or ask a friend to pick one up for you.



Christians should vote! Walk into the voting booth with your faith, and approach it in the knowledge that the same Lord who laid down His life for your sins and brought you salvation also rules over the authorities and powers of this age. It's an opportunity to participate and, as Scripture says, when we can do good, we should. Pray and vote your Christian conscience. Ask God for mercy, and lead the way in repenting of our national sins: our perpetual chasing of immediate gratification, the trivialization of human life on the altar of sexual autonomy, our comfort and ease in the midst of grave evils, and our unwillingness to stand for truth out of fear and compromise.



As we struggle through the political and social chaos it entails, do not be anxious. The cares and concerns of this life can easily consume you; do not let them. Instead, sit at the feet of Jesus and receive the one thing necessary: Him. That's all the perspective you need in this chaotic time.

"We go to the polls informed by God's Word and our own best thinking. But we should never forget to distinguish between the two." To learn more check out CID's Ken Schurb's devotion [Called to Vote: A Christian's Approach to Elections](#) at Concordia Publishing House. Also, the August 2020 issue of The Lutheran Witness contains articles concerning politics, the media, and Christianity.

Faith's 20th Anniversary: In March 2021, Faith will have been a LCMS congregation for 20 years. We would like to form a Anniversary Committee to plan and celebrate this event after the Easter season next April, if the Covid environment allows. Anyone desiring to have input and serve the congregation in this mission should notify Gary Hahn. We would like to begin working together in December.

Council News: On October 20th the Church council met. The Treasurer reported the General Fund balance was \$38,246.91 and the Designated Fund balance was \$17,255.07. Trustee reports the elevator has begun making noises when lifting, requiring another call for maintenance repair. Women of Faith was thanked for cleaning the kitchen and fellowship hall. Approved was a food collection for Kewanee food pantry during the upcoming Advent season.

Next month the council will begin work on next years' budget and officer nominations. Anyone willing to serve as Treasurer, Vice Chairman, or Elder is asked to inform any council member or Pastor.



"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

We are to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean just to give thanks for the stuff we really enjoy, but in everything and every moment. If you do a search in the New Testament of the word "thanks", and its other forms, "thanksgiving" and "thanksgivings", you will find that it is



the constant exhortation and expectation of the Apostles. Jesus was always giving thanks, and Paul writes about thanks or giving thanks in almost every single letter in the New Testament. After a while, it begins to sound like the chief activity of the Christian church. What else have we to do, really, than to give thanks? All that you need is given to you. All that you really need done has been done for you. Your own guilt and sin has been punished already, and Christ bore it on the cross in your place. The life and health that you would desire - and should want - is His gift to you. There is nothing left for you to do but live in God's grace and goodness and enjoy it, and give thanks. It's wonderfully impossible to thank the Lord fully and completely for all His benefits. But by God's grace, we thank, praise, serve and obey Him. What a wonderful way to celebrate Thanksgiving every day.

"Let us be thankful, and so worship God," Hebrews 12:28