



Acts of Faith

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



October 2009

Volume 9, Issue 10

What's in it for *Them*?

At last month's Church Council meeting, we were reviewing the results of the Evangelism Fair Booth our congregation had downtown during Hog Days, as well as talking about the possibility of an evangelism emphasis for next year through O AFC. O AFC stands for "Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ," and is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS; such as is Lutheran Bible Translators, Camp CILCA, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP); and many other worthwhile mission efforts which provide Christ-centered Lutheran outreach.

O AFC consists primarily of young people who have been trained in evangelism, and assist LCMS congregations with witnessing and canvassing of neighborhoods. We're following-up on having an "O AFC Weekend" here next year; but in the course of the discussion, questions were raised about whether we would get any new members out of such an effort. I briefly addressed the purposes of our Evangelism Committee, and of evangelistic outreaches such as those offered by O AFC; saying that purpose of evangelism isn't *to get new members*, but *to spread the Gospel*. If someone is motivated to join by our congregation through our evangelism efforts, that's great; but that's not *why* we do evangelism.

I'd like to expand on that point here. The word "evangelism" comes from the original New Testament Greek "*euangelion*," and means "*to share the good news*," specifically sharing the Good News of the Gospel—the Good News of the life, suffering,

death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our salvation.

The first Christian evangelism efforts weren't done to gain congregation members—indeed there were no formal congregations among the Christians of Jesus' time, just informal groups of believers who met in private homes. And, the *motivation* for evangelism was *love*—loving others so much that individual Christians wanted to share with their *friends, neighbors, and relatives* the Good News of salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ. The motivation for evangelism then, and should be today, purely *outward*, not *inward*—not looking at what's in it for *us*, but what's in it for *them*.



Take, for example, the new believer Philip, in John chapter one. We read, "*Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'* Nathanael said to him, '*Can anything good come out of Nazareth?'*" Philip said to him, '*Come and see.*"' (John 1:45-46)

We don't know the relationship between Phillip and Nathaniel; all we know is that "*Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter*" (John 1:44), that Andrew and Peter were fisherman; so possibly Phillip and Nathaniel were also fisherman, and knew each other through that line of work. In any case, Phillip wasn't out looking for someone to add to the membership roster of a congregation—Phillip was reaching out in love, and joyfully sharing the Good News that he had found the promised Messiah, "*him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth.*" (John 1:45)

(Continued on page 2)

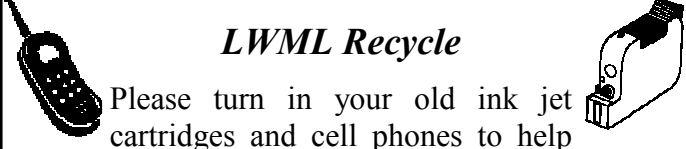
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Nathaniel wasn't immediately convinced, and most likely no one to whom *we* first witness will be immediately convinced of their need for "*the Son of God... the King of Israel!*" (John 1:49). But, we still reach out to them *in love* with the Good News of Jesus, praying that the Holy Spirit will work in *their* hearts the same faith which created in *our* hearts.


So-called "success" doesn't depend upon whether they become members of Faith Lutheran Church or not—the "success" is that we've shown *love* to those around us, to those in our communities, and to those around the world who need the assurance of the forgiveness of sins, Christ's closeness in *this* life, and His gift of *eternal* life. We interested in what's in it for *them*, loving others as Christ has loved us, and offered Himself up as the sacrifice for *our* sins and for the sins of the world.

In Christ,
Pastor Fischer

LWML Recycle



Please turn in your old ink jet cartridges and cell phones to help underwrite the LWML's national convention in Peoria in 2011. There is a box in the narthex for this items. Thank you!



Women of Faith

LWML Sunday
October 4th will be *LWML Sunday*. There will be a order of service for the day recognizing the gifts and contributions of the women of our Synod and congregation.

Please remember to bring your collected Mites as the Mite Offering can will be available on that Sunday, or on Oct. 11th.

Kewanee's Oktoberfest
Thursday, October 17th



[Jesus said] "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32)

October's Calendar

- Oct. 1 Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Oct. 2 Evangelism Comm., 6:30 PM
- **Oct. 5 21st Sunday after Pentecost**
Muriel Godke Funeral, 1:00 PM.
Sunday School Picnic, 3:00 PM
- Oct. 8 Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Oct. 9 Oktoberfest, 4-7 PM
- **Oct. 12 LWML Sunday**
Voters' Meeting, 1:30 PM.
- Oct. 15 Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Oct. 16 Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM
Church Council, 7:30 PM
- Oct. 18 Dartball & Fun Night, 6:00 PM
- **Oct. 19 23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
- Oct. 20-22 CID Fall Pastors' Conference,
Moline
- Oct. 21 Women of Faith Meeting, 1 PM
- Oct. 22 Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- **Oct. 26 Reformation Sunday**
- Oct. 29 Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Oct. 31 Reformation Day

"For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law." (Romans 3:28)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lois Novotny	10/01
Jane Davis	10/02
Verda Menzenberg	10/04
Wayne Becker	10/07
Ted Sturtevant	10/08
Michael Leezer	10/11
Judy Bridgewater	10/19
Myrene Carper	10/20
Sharon Larson	10/20
Paul Estes	10/22
Connie Gustafson	10/22
Elaine Price	10/22
Evan Becker	10/24
Sandra Heinrich	10/27
Robert Weber	10/27
Gary Hahn	10/28
Jacob Hernandez	10/31

Anniversaries

Claudia & Bill Croegaert	10/02
Mona & Walter Kubiak	10/09
Sharon & Ron Larson	10/18

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM, Sunday

Adult Bible Class, Confirmation Class, High School Bible Class, and 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)

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Address Correction Requested

October 2009 Newsletter

**“A Mighty Fortress is our
God, a trusty Shield and
Weapon.”**



From the “Reformation Psalm,” Psalm 46: *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.”*



The Five Solas

The **Five Solas** are five Latin phrases (or slogans) that emerged during the Protestant Reformation and summarize the Reformers' basic beliefs and emphasis in contradistinction to the teaching of the Roman Catholic of the day. "Sola" means "alone."

Faith alone (Sola Fide)

Justification (that is, becoming right before God) comes through faith only, not good works, though saving faith will always be accompanied by good works. This doctrine can be summarized with the formula "Faith yields justification and good works" and is contrasted with the Catholic formula "Faith and good works yield justification."

Scripture alone (Sola Scriptura)

The Bible is the only inspired and authoritative Word of God and is accessible to all. This doctrine is directly opposed to the teaching of the Catholic Church that Scripture can only be authentically interpreted through Holy Apostolic Tradition by the Magisterium (that is, the Pope and bishops at church councils).

Christ alone (Solus Christus)

Christ is the exclusive mediator between God and man. Neither Mary, the saints, nor priests (other than Christ himself) can act as mediator in bringing salvation. This doctrine is contrasted with the Catholic doctrines of the Intercession of Saints and of the function of priests.

Grace alone (Sola Gratia)

Salvation comes by grace only, not through any merit on the part of the sinner. Thus salvation is an unearned gift. This doctrine is a response to the Catholic doctrine of merit.

Glory to God alone (Soli Deo Gloria)

All the glory is due to God alone, since he did all the work—not only the atonement on the cross, but even granting the faith which allows men to be saved by that atonement. The Reformers believed that human beings (such as the Catholic saints and popes) and their organizations (the Church) were not worthy of the glory that was bestowed on them.



Hay Ride & Weiner Roast!

Please plan to attend our family Hay Ride and Weiner Roast. This will be held at church on Sunday, Oct. 5th, from 3-6 PM. There will be games and activities for kids of all ages. The congregation, families, and friends are all invited to attend!



Saturday Dartball & "Fun Night"

Our Dartball competitions will now be held on Saturday nights instead of Monday nights.



The next competitions will be Saturday, Oct. 18th, 6:00 PM.

In addition to Dartball, there will also be Ladderball, Bean Bag Ball, and other games for the younger kids.

People of all ages are invited to come and participate in this evening of food, fun, and fellowship.

Reformation Day, October 31

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us.
We tremble not, we fear no ill,
They shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none,
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God"
LSB #656, Verse 3