



Acts of Faith

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



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October brings the Festival of the Reformation. A time to reflect on what God has done for us by preserving the pure Gospel for our longing ears, that He would create and sustain faith within us. This month we gather with other Lutherans and sing the great Lutheran hymns with gusto. “The Kingdom ours remaineth.”

The work of Reformation did not end in 1517. For that matter, it did not end in 1530, 1577, 1580, 1847, 1974, or 2010. Today the kingdom of heaven still suffers violence, and God is still raising up faithful men to speak. He calls us to speak in our various stations in life, too. We Americans are spoiled by a couple centuries of relatively easy living. Christianity less and less enjoys the place it once held in American thought and society. Today’s pluralism invites Baal and Moloch alongside Yahweh. Most Americans would deny that they worship Baal, but prevailing attitudes about how men and women are to relate to one another only within marriage suggest otherwise. Likewise, the false god Moloch commanded that children be sacrificed in order to secure wealth and happiness. The Cult of Moloch which rules our society would mandate that the Church be complicit in the murder of children for the sake of convenience. The violent don’t need to use swords and guns; they often use the violence of government compulsion and veiled cultural threats. The Church possesses God’s Word, and she is called to speak this truth whether it is well-received or not. The Church needs Christians of boldness and conviction to speak God’s truth fearlessly. Consider this our call to action.

Lutheranism has nothing whatsoever to do with beer, polka music, lederhosen, or sausage. Around the world, Lutherans are proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ – free forgiveness only because the Son of Man was crucified for them. African Lutherans are yearning to hear that they are reconciled to their Almighty Creator in Christ. Reformation Sunday is not about Luther, or Walther. It’s not even about Elijah or John. It’s about Jesus. He has called us to do much good in the world, and we often chose to serve ourselves. We choose to remain silent where we ought to have spoken, and He forgives. His blood covers our cowardice, our silence, and our inaction. He did not shrink from the violence done to Him. He gave His life for all on Calvary’s cross. By that dreadful violence we are saved! When we fail to confess Him, He never fails to confess us before His Father, pleading at the Father’s right hand.

Look through the history of salvation; God has preserved His people through extraordinary opposition and hatred. The whole time, God continued to raise up prophets to speak to change the hearts of men. Today, the Church faces challenges no one dreamed of 30 years ago, but He continues to give His Church the courage to speak to a hateful world. The violent seek to take the kingdom by force, and Christians to suffer. But no one snatches us out of the hand of our loving God. He has called us together – sheep who hear the voice of the Shepherd. Wherever the Gospel is preached there will be trouble. Maybe some of us will face persecution. Perhaps some already have. But God is on our side. Our salvation is secure, and God will not let us fall.

We who bear the Name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in Baptism are called to witness to the world. God provided Elijah to the world. He also provided John the Baptist and Martin Luther, to speak the Truth to a perishing world. The same Jesus who has raised up strong voices in every generation will continue to provide voices of humility and strength in the face of any trouble. The Church will endure to the end until He calls all the dead from their graves to a glorious Resurrection.

In the meantime, where are the true heirs of the Reformation? Where are those who, forgiven in Christ and lavished with grace, speak boldly and unwaveringly to a hostile world? You know yourself to be frail and flawed; so did Elijah, John, and Luther. But God sees in you only Christ, and He delights in using people just like us to accomplish His purposes in the world. Be bold. Be fearless. Your victory has been won. The kingdom yours remaineth.

Excerpts from a sermon by Rev. Daniel Hinton, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Lubbock, Texas, October 2012

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

October's Calendar

- Oct. 03 Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM
- Oct. 06 17th Sunday after Pentecost
 Worship with Holy Communion
 LWML Sunday observance**
- Oct. 7 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Oct. 10 Oktoberfest dinner 4:30-6:30 PM
 Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM
- Oct. 13 18th Sunday after Pentecost
 Worship with Holy Communion
 Pastors Appreciation Day
 St. Paul's chancel rededicated 5:00 PM**
- Oct. 14 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Oct. 15 Concordia St. Louis Choir Performance
- Oct. 17 WOF Meeting 10:00AM
 Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM
- Oct. 20 19th Sunday after Pentecost
 Worship with Holy Communion**
- Oct. 21 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Oct. 22 Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM
 Church Council 7:00 PM
- Oct. 24 Adult Confirmation 6:30 PM
- Oct. 27 Reformation Sunday
 Worship with Holy Communion**
- Oct. 28 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Oct. 31 Reformation Day/All Saints Eve

Altar Guild Schedule

Oct. 06	Sharon Larson	Green
Oct. 13	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
Oct. 20	Mary Hahn	Green
Oct. 27	Kari Tavares	Red

Weekly Ushers:

- 1st Sunday: Gary Hahn & Kevin Hull
- 2nd Sunday: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
- 3rd Sunday: Nick Philips & Randy Stockner
- 4th Sunday: Mike Leezer & Wendell Hier

Elders List:

- Wayne Becker: 309-853-8783
- Kevin Hull: 309-852-0801
- Ron Larson: 309-853-5111
- Mike Leezer: 309-286-3014
- Ted Sturtevant: 309-853-8203
- Wendell Hier 309-853-8388

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

REMEMBER: Please contact the office and inform us of any changes of name, address, marital status, e-mail, phone, and cell phone.

If you have an article, a thank you, an idea, a suggestion, or a request for the next newsletter, give the information to the church office or send an e-mail to hahn.gary@comcast.net before November 22, 2019.

Prayer Requests: Have someone or something that you would like Pastor Weber 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.

Those For Whom We Pray: Please include the following in your thoughts and daily prayers.

Our Faith family: Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Bonnie Nuding, Nancy Tudder, Cheryl Snyder, and Heidi Heinrich.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Rev. Burnell Eckhardt and family, Glen Quart, Rev. Ken Wegener, Ron Pettit, Steve Scheff, 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.

R.I. Cir: St. Matthew, Milan, is calling a shepherd to lead their congregation. Pray that God grant this congregation a favorable response.



October Birthdays

October 2	Jane Davis
October 7	J Wayne Becker
October 8	Ted Sturtevant
October 11	Michael Leezer
October 19	Judy Bridgewater
October 20	Myrene Carper
October 20	Sharon Larson
October 22	Paul Estes
October 27	Sandra Heinrich
October 28	Gary Hahn
October 30	Tinsley Newman
October 31	Jacob Hernandez

Baptism Dates

LaJean Breedlove	10/01
Sara Nimrick	10/01
Erin Tarvares	10/04

Wedding Anniversaries

October 02	William and Claudia Croegaert
October 18	Ronald and Sharon Larson

Women of Faith: The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, **October 17**, at 10:00AM. Nancy Tudder will be hostess and lead a devotion. All ladies are invited to attend. Hobo soup for lunch so bring a can of non-cream soup for the pot with you.

On October 6th we have the opportunity to support the LWML Mission Grant, Teach Me Too – Preschoolers with Learning Needs with your mites. Lutheran Special Education Ministries has received many requests by schools to present preschool specific training for their staff. They have completed school visits to perform observations and assessments numerous times.

With statistics stating that one in five children have a learning need there is a great need for their services to continue and grow. Women of Faith thank each of you for your wonderful support of the LWML Mission Grants.



Laudamus, a select choir of pastoral ministry students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be near us. Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m. concert at **Trinity Lutheran Church** in Davenport, Iowa. The concerts are free and open to the public. Freewill offerings can be given to support the musical arts programs at the Seminary.

Oktoberfest Dinner: Faith will be serving an Oktoberfest German dinner on Thursday, October 10th, from 4:30 to 6:30p.m. in the church fellowship hall. We welcome members and the general public for a donation of \$10.00 per meal which includes bratwurst sausage, homemade German potato salad, and German sauerkraut, dessert, and drink. Meals to-go will be available. Wayne Becker has advance tickets for distribution. Donated desserts (i.e., pies or cakes) are much appreciated. Helpers are needed to make this a successful project. See the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.



On Wednesday, 10/9, the potato salad will be made starting around 9:00 AM. Peelers are welcome and needed for this activity.

Proceeds from this Thrivent Financial team activity will be used for repair of our elevator, and for financial assistance to Cristo Rey Lutheran Church in East Moline, IL. Thank you Thrivent for your support.

Adult Confirmation Classes: Pastor is holding Adult confirmation classes on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to about 8:00 PM. Anyone who is desiring to become a LCMS member or wishes to review our Lutheran Doctrine is invited to attend. The class will go about 6 weeks. Check the newsletter calendar.

New members: Chairman Bill Croegaert is once again asking our members to submit names of people in the area that you know are not attending church regularly, and we will invite them to Faith Lutheran. Pastor is willing to hold adult and /or youth Catechism instruction for those interested in becoming LCMS members. The class will be tailored to your schedule and situation.

Portals of Prayer, Oct-Dec., are available in three sizes in the Church Narthex.

R.I. Circuit News: Rev. David C. Anderson will be installed as Pastor at Trinity, Coal Valley, on the afternoon of October 6th, 2019 at 3:00pm. . If you plan on staying for the meal, please RSVP to Robin at Trinity by September 29th. The Church office phone number is (309) 799-5650 or you can email at trintyCV1@gmail.com.

Mrs. Judith Umbarger, wife of Rev. Kent Umbarger, died on September 11, 2019. A \$100 memorial was sent to the St. John's Endowment fund from Faith Lutheran in Judith's name.

CID News: CID Fall Pastors' Conference will be held on October 7-9, 2019 at St. John's Lutheran Church & School, Mattoon IL

Records Update: Faith would like to update its membership records. Forms are available in the Narthex to provide basic information. Please take one per household, fill them out, and hand them to an usher. Feel free to take forms for other family or friends are not in church and ask them to mail the sheets back to the church. A new church directory will be printed after the information is compiled.



In the early morning hours of Feb. 18, 1546, Martin Luther closed his eyes forever. And the hand that hammered the 95 Theses into the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on Oct. 31, 1517, penned its final words: "We are all beggars. This is true." In order to be free, you must be a beggar; you must be utterly dependent and reliant upon God. This makes us uncomfortable – the way we're uncomfortable when someone gets us a Christmas or birthday present when we haven't gotten them one. We feel we owe them. And we don't much like being in someone's debt.

But what Luther would remind us is that we are all indeed beggars. But we're not just anyone's beggars. We're God's beggars. And this is His legacy to the Christian Church. Christ came for sinners. He came to seek and save the lost. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came for sinners, and He dwells only with sinners. We must be willing to be beggars. We must cry out for mercy, for grace, and for his undeserved love and kindness. We must be dependent solely on Him and what He gives.

And here's the beauty: He gives us everything. Everything – forgiveness of sins, salvation from death and the devil, and eternal life. This is not because of any worthiness or merit in us, but it is because of His divine goodness, mercy, and grace. On account of Christ's death and resurrection, the Father forgives you, saves you, and is pleased with you. And you receive. You receive His love, His righteousness, His holiness, His acceptance, and His inheritance. We are all beggars. This is true.

This is the heart and soul of Christianity and the life-blood of the Christian Church. God justifies us, and He declares us innocent and righteous by His grace received through faith for the sake of Christ. This is not because of our works; this is because of His work on the cross. We, who once were enemies of God, are reconciled to Him and made to be His children.

This is what Luther would point us to when He took up his pen for the last time and scribbled "We are all beggars. This is true." We are beggars. But we are beggars of the God who does not ignore us, who doesn't pass by us on the other side. We are beggars of the One who descended from heaven to make His dwelling with sinners. We are beggars of Him who deigns to dwell with us, among us, and – yes – even in us by grace for Christ's sake. For in the bread and cup that we bless, we share together with Christ and each other the riches of God's grace.

So inexhaustible are the riches of this grace – the Gospel in sermon and absolution, in Baptism and Holy Communion – that our cups overflow. We, who are God's beggars, are not only inexhaustibly satisfied but have something to give back in thanksgiving and praise.

From the LCMS Stewardship Newsletter October 2019