



Acts of Faith

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



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Volume 18 Issue 9

Vacancy Pastor : Rev. Chris Bushre

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God Never Ages: I can't believe that September has rolled around again. Another year has gone by, another summer, and we arrive again at the beginning of the school year, an approaching harvest, and some cooler temperatures. September, for me, also means that my birthday is coming up (October 2nd). No, I don't say this because I'm trying to get presents out of you. I say this because I cringe at the thought of getting another year older, and I know you'll understand what I'm saying. But, alas, things change, people grow older (no, I'm not trying to depress you, either), and we all must come to terms with ("sigh") getting older.

Aging, of course, is a natural part of life. But that doesn't make it any easier. Much of the struggle of aging for us is mourning the things we lose as we grow older. We lose our youth, we begin to lose the ability to do things we used to do, and we begin to lose people we love. Maybe we lose them to death, but we also feel like we lose them when children get older and go off to school or start families of their own, friends and family move away to pursue new opportunities, or we leave people behind as we go about the course God has laid out for us in this life.

These times are hard, and we grieve at these losses. This is normal. It's comforting to know that, as we grow older and lose things, we also gain things. We gain wisdom and knowledge, wonderful memories, new family members (like children, sons and daughters-in-law, grandchildren, and, for some of us, great-grandchildren), and we meet new people with whom we can share our newfound wisdom, memories, and photographs.

As Christians, we also grow in certainty and in faith through the years that, as things change, we have a God who never changes. He is always here. We have but to crack open our Bibles, recall our baptism, hear our pastor preach, sing that old familiar liturgy or hymn, or partake of His body and blood in communion, to know with absolute certainty that He is there. We know we can always find Him in these places because He promises that that's where He'll be: in His Word and Sacraments. He never leaves, His feelings for us never change, and what He's done for us can never be undone. That's one of the blessings in growing older as a Christian: we learn to cling to our God in everything because we've seen that everything can be taken away from us in an instant. Everything, that is, except for Him and His promises.

Though it's very difficult to get older and stare our own mortality in the face, we're reassured that what awaits us on the other side of this life is even better. We have eternal life to look forward to because our Lord sent His Son Jesus to the cross for us. Though we may temporarily leave behind some wonderful people in this life, in the next, we'll be reunited with our Christian loved ones, and, even better, we'll be in the personal presence of our Lord! No one takes better care of us than Him, no one loves us more than He does, and no one has done more for us than He has. As we age, we look forward to that day, when Christ returns, when we're raised up in our bodies, and we live forever in Paradise with our Lord and all our fellow believers in Christ. Then all will be perfect: no sin, no death, no sickness, no more good-byes. Just Paradise for eternity. Because of Christ, as we age, we look forward to that time when age will no longer matter, and all our mourning will be at an end. God's blessings to you.

In Christ, Pastor Bushre

LifeLight Study: Christian worship is a very important activity for God's people. What is worship? Do I need to worship? What is the connection between faith and worship? For answers to these and other questions concerning Christian worship we need to look to God's Word. God, our Heavenly Father, will teach us and enable us to worship Him in "spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24) Join the LifeLight Bible study group to learn more about Christian worship and hopefully enhance your worship experience.

The nine study sessions start on Monday, September 10th, at 1:00 PM in the fellowship hall. If you are interested in attending contact Gary Hahn to order your study guide.

Worship Schedule

5:00 PM, Saturday Worship Service
with Adult Bible Class, 4:00 PM

September's Calendar

- Sept. 01** Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship and Bible Study
Mite box collection
- Sept. 03 Labor Day Observance
- Sept. 08** Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship, and Bible Study
- Sept. 10 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Sept. 13 Women of Faith Mtg. 10:00 AM
- Sept. 15** Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship and Bible Study
- Sept. 17 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- R.I. Circuit Seminar "Demons" 7:00 PM
- Sept. 22*** Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship & Special Voters Mtg.
Elders Mtg. 3:30 PM
Council Mtg. 4:00 PM
- Sept. 24 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Sept. 25 Rock Island LWML Zone Rally 8:30 AM
- Sept. 29** Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Worship and Bible Study

*Pastor Mueller, Concordia Geneseo, will be guest pastor on Sept. 22. No Bible Class, but Voters Mtg. called after the service.

There will be no Sunday School during September.

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

Altar Guild Schedule

Sept. 01	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
Sept. 08	Mary Hahn	Green
Sept. 15	Kari Tavares	Green
Sept. 22	Sharon Larson	Green
Sept. 29	Marilyn Sturtevant No Communion	Green

Weekly Ushers:

- 1st Sunday: Ray Heinrich & Kevin Hull
- 2nd Sunday: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
- 3rd Sunday: Nick Philips & Randy Stockner
- 4th Sunday: Mike Leezer & Wendell Hier
- 5th Week: Kevin Hull & Ted Sturtevant

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

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

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

Our Faith family: Pastor Weber and family, Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Joyce Long, and Bonnie Nuding.

Friends: Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Judi Umbarger, and our troops abroad.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Lois Novotney who went to her Heavenly home on August 15th. She was given a Christian Funeral on August 20 at Faith.

Our Christian Sympathy is extended to the family of Mona Kubiak, who went to her Heavenly home on August 20th. A private internment for Mona and Walt was held on August 25th.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Who ever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who believes in me shall never die." John 11: 25



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.

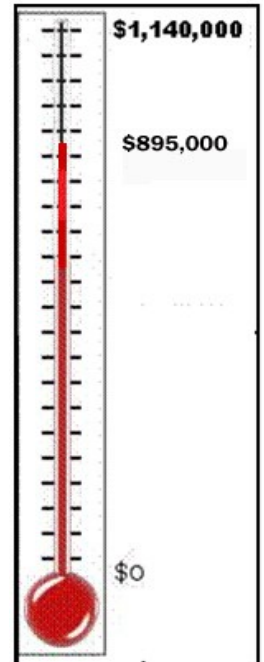
If you have an article, a thank you, an idea, a suggestion, or a request for the next newsletter, give the information to the church office or send an e-mail to hahn.gary@comcast.net before October 21, 2018.

September Birthdays

Joshua Carpenter	9/01	Christian Clapper	9/21
Ronald Larson	9/06	Mary Duncan	9/22
Doris Hepner	9/07	Justin Carper	9/24
Bradley Cook	9/14	Addyson Hicks	9/26
LaJean Breedlove	9/17	Theo Tavaras	9/26
Donna Becker	9/18		
Rachael Damm	9/18		
Olive Cervantez	9/20		

Baptism Dates

Bradley Cook	9/14
William Croegaert	9/14
Heidi Heinrich	9/12
Laura Heinrich	9/07
Layne Staple	9/20
Kaitlyn Tudder	9/01
Mark Tudder	9/08
Ryan Tudder	9/01
Andrew Yarger	9/20



Wedding Anniversaries

Deborah & Jim Woods	9/01
Judy & Donald Bridgewater	9/13
Bonnie & Jim Nuding	9/18
Marilyn & Ted Sturtevant	9/18

2018 Altar Flower Chart is up and available for you to sign up for altar flowers. Please consider placing flowers on our Lord's altar to remember a significant loved one or event in your life.

Mortgage Update: The balance on our CEF mortgage is \$245,000. Please consider using the CID Church Extension fund if you are looking for a place to invest some monies. You will be earning interest and helping build God's Church at the same time. Currently, CID-CEF has more requests for financial assistance than they have monetary resources available to them. If you are interested in investing, there is an application form in the church office or the form can be downloaded from their web site.

Special Voters' Meeting to be held: Church Council has set September 22, after worship service, for a Voters' Assembly to discuss the replacement of one of our geothermal furnaces. Since this item was not in our 2018 budget, the congregation must authorize such an expenditure. It is estimated to cost about \$13,000 to replace the furnace and pump, and recharge the system. This work needs to be completed before the heating season. We have tried to repair the existing furnace several times over the past year and it is down again.

Women of Faith: Mites will be gathered on Sunday September 1st.

The 2017 LWML Fall Rally will be September 25 at St. John's Lutheran Church in East Moline, IL. Coffee and registration will begin at 8:30 AM. Early registration fee is \$10.00. The guest speaker is Elizabeth Gehle who share her experience on a mission to Migori, Kenya. The congregation is invited to participate as a heart-ingathering for the Pregnancy Resources of the Quad Cities. A box will be available in the Narthex for gifts and include maternity clothes, all sizes of disposable diapers, baby bath items, baby equipment and supplies, and financial donations.



The monthly meeting of WOF will be held on Thursday, September 13th at 10:00 AM. Cheryl Snyder is the hostess and the program will be a book review by Donna Becker. All ladies of the congregation are invited. Bring a brown bag for lunch.

Thank You Rev. Bushre: Pastor Chris Bushre will end his vacancy position as Faith's shepherd at the end of September. We thank him and his family for his service to our congregation during Rev. Weber's deployment with the Iowa National Guard. We will miss his introductory stories to the weekly sermons. Rev. Weber is expected to return to us sometime in October. Also, we are anticipating to return to Sunday morning services at this time too. Please watch for more information in next month's newsletter and weekly worship service folders.



Rev. Bushre will be on vacation on September 22 and Rev. Stephen Mueller from Concordia Lutheran, Geneseo, will be our guest pastor that evening.

R.I. Circuit News: The R.I. Circuit is presenting a day long seminar for LCMS pastors entitled “Demons and the Ministry of Deliverance” on September 17th at St. John Lutheran Church in East Moline. A free presentation for the laity will be from 7:00 to 9:00 PM that evening. Pre registration is appreciated by calling 309-799-5650.

Council Meeting Highlights: Treasurer reported the general fund balance is \$44,582.66 and designated fund balance is \$19,915.15. Memorials were received for Ray Heinrich’s sister, and for Carol Robinson’s sister.

Elders will make follow up telephone calls to those receiving evangelism letters to see if they have any interest in visiting Faith Lutheran Church. The congregation is still encouraged to submit names of unchurched they may know in the Kewanee area.

Trustees reported on estimates to replace the geothermal furnace unit that serves the Narthex and office areas, and a recommendation to replace it. Council decided to add additional rock to the rear drive and defer paving for this year.

Council asks that anyone with a facility building key, but no longer has need for it, please return it to the church office.

An Oktoberfest dinner was approved with a tentative date of October 18. A planning committee will be formed to organize the event. Anyone interested in serving should inform a council member. More hands and ideas add to the project’s success.

A special Voters’ meeting was called for September 22 to authorized an expenditure for a new furnace. It will be held after the regular worship service. The next council meeting will be prior to the worship service.

Do we have your email address? If not, please send it to hahn.gary@comcast.net, indicate it on your attendance card or leave it in the church office. Email is the quickest and most convenient way to receive our monthly newsletter and to keep up on what’s happening at Faith!

Stewardship message: It’s September, and everything is in full swing again: back to school and back to church attendance after vacations and weekends away. And since everything is back into full swing, it’s a perfect time to get back to basics, back to the foundation.

This is the first thing we are given to confess about stewardship, and it has to do with ownership. God owns everything, and we are simply managers — stewards — acting on His behalf. This is true not only of all that we have in this life (Deuteronomy 8:17–18), but also all that we are in this life (1 Corinthians 6:20). The rest flows from here. Since we are stewards, or managers, of what belongs to God, entrusted to make use of it according to His will, there is an expectation of responsibility and accountability. For the Lord said, “Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:48b).

And from this comes blessing and reward: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master” (Matthew 25:21).

We have everything we need to support this body and life from our God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us. We have everything we need for our spiritual life also from His merciful hands.

On account of the sacrifice of His Son, our Lord Jesus, through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, we have the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and everlasting salvation delivered to us with absolute certainty that it is ours — not as stewards but as sons (Galatians 4:1–7).

Let us then, as His own sons, press all that He gives to us into the service of His church and to His glory.

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24