



Acts of Faith

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



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September, a month of change, is here again. It is a time when the luscious green farm fields turn a harvest gold. There's Labor Day and the Hog Day's festival in Kewanee. Hopefully, the temperatures begin to cool from summers' heat, and classroom instruction has begun once more. The Gospel lessons for September deal with Jesus, the unequivocally greatest teacher, as He enlightens His disciples and us on our sinful condition and a need for Himself as our Savior. What makes the progress difficult is Jesus speaks of spiritual realms, while the mostly uneducated disciples are using human understanding to comprehend Him. Time and again they must tenderly be admonished for this kind of thinking.

Jesus' teaching method uses parables and illustrations to drive His lesson home. When the disciples question among themselves who will be the greatest in the kingdom, Jesus uses a small child to visually illustrate His point that humility is the hallmark of greatness in the Kingdom of God. Greatness, how often do we hear that in our culture today? No matter if we are talking about sports, business, politics, or anything else, everyone wants to be the top dog. Humbling oneself means not thinking more highly of yourself than you should. It is this pride before God that's the sin. So how can a little child be great? Children know they must depend on adults to provide for, care for, and protect them. Otherwise, they are helpless. To make it into God's kingdom we, as sinners and enemies of God, must be reliant solely on His grace and nothing of our own doing.

Jesus used parables and their interpretations to teach His disciples the knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of God. Those who rejected Him in their hearts could not understand what He was saying, and were left spiritually blind. (Matthew 13:13)

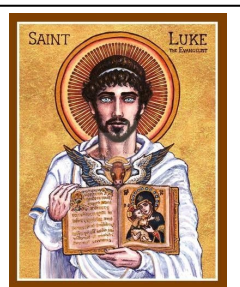
Jesus emphasizes the seriousness of causing anyone to be tempted or lead away from accepting His salvation. This is why it is so important for Christians to live a Christ centered life. Our influence and example does impact others, especially the young, and may cause them to fall away from faith. With today's world acceptance of moral sin and total rejection of God, it is critical that we be on our guard that we too do not fall away into sin and damnation, but stay strong in His Word and Sacrament. Through forgiveness and renewing work of the Holy Spirit it is our privilege to serve in God's kingdom.

Part of that service includes forgiving our brothers and sisters, and when they stray off the path of righteousness into sin to admonish them with love as God daily does for us. Sin is serious and must be dealt with drastically. God would have all to be saved, and that is why Christ died and rose, ascended into Heaven, and will one day return to complete our salvation.

Pray for a humble heart, and trust always in the enduring promises of our heavenly Father. Cultivate your faith in Christ as you listen to His words and participate in His Holy Sacrament.

Have a wonderful autumn, and see you in church.

LifeLight Bible Study will resume on September 11th at 1:00 PM. This study will continue with Part 2 of the Gospel of Luke. Everyone is invited to join us when possible.



Faith in God may not remove our trials, but it gives us strength to overcome them.

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



Sep. 03	Sharon Larson (Green)
Sep. 10	Marilyn Sturtevant (Green)
Sep. 17	Kari Tavares (Green)
Sep. 24	Leah Weber (Green)

September's Calendar

Sep. 03	14th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion
Sep. 04	Labor Day Observance
Sep. 10	15th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion Grandparents Day
Sep. 11	LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
Sept. 16	Every One His Witness 10:00 AM
Sep. 17	16th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion
Sep. 18	WOF Mtg. 2:00 PM
Sep. 21	Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM
Sep. 23	Every One His Witness 10:00 AM Welcome Fall
Sep. 24	17th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion
Sep. 25	LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
Sep. 30	Every One His Witness 10:00 AM

ELDER'S LIST:

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

USHER'S LIST

1st Sunday:	Ted Sturtevant
2nd Sunday:	Nick Phillips
3rd Sunday:	Wayne Becker
4th Sunday:	Kevin Hull
5th Sunday:	Jim Cook

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.

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

Our Faith family: Allison Leezer, Cari Bridgewater, Nancy Tudder, JoAnne Behnke, Peggy Faber, Bonnie Nuding, Vanda Hallock, Kevin Hull, and Wayne Becker

Friends: Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, and all military personnel and first responders.

CID: Our campus, prison, deaf, and Hispanic missions in the District need your prayers and support.

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.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



We join to pray for those who are experiencing devastating loss because of the fires which have ravaged the historic town of Lahaina and other parts of Maui, as well as our brothers and sisters at Emmanuel, Kahului, Maui who are responding to their needs. Pray that even amid their suffering, they may be upheld by the love and mercy of Christ and His church.



Joshua Carpenter	9/01
Ronald Larson	9/06
Bradley Cook	9/14
LaJean Breedlove	9/17
Donna Becker	9/18
Olive Cervantez	9/20
Christian Clapper	9/21
Mary Duncan	9/22
June Leezer	9/22
Justin Carper	9/24
Addyson Hicks	9/26
Theo Tavares	9/26

Baptism Dates

Bradley Cook	9/14
William Croegaert	9/14
Laura Heinrich	9/07
Stella Nimrick	9/18
Layne Stapel	9/20
Bradley Talbot	9/18
Kaitlyn Tudder	9/01
Mark Tudder	9/08
Ryan Tudder	9/01
Andrew Yarger	9/20



Wedding Anniversaries

Judy & Donald Bridgewater	9/13 (54)
Bonnie & Jim Nuding	9/18 (68)
Marilyn & Ted Sturtevant	9/18 (63)



Women of Faith: The ladies will be meeting on Tuesday, **September 18th**, at 2:00PM. Heather Weber will host the meeting and give a presentation on their trip to Seoul, South Korea.



This month we are focusing on the LWML Mission Grant, "Healing Space for At-Risk Children", at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. This LWML grant will support a capital campaign to build a Chapel designed to be a healing space for boys and girls working to overcome the effects of significant childhood trauma on its Bismarck, ND campus. Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch is a Christ-centered residential treatment and educational center for children and their families. Thank you for your support of this Mission Grant.

Youth Catechesis Class: Pastor Weber is making plans to resume a Catechism class for the youth of Faith in September. This second of a two year program will meet on selected weekends preparing them for Confirmation. If you have or know of a student who would benefit from this class, contact Pastor for more information.

Welcome: On August 24, four children were Baptized and brought into God's family at Faith in a private service. They were Elliot Tavares daughter, of Corey and Jackie Tavares, Oliver Blume, son of Casidy and Ryan Blume, Cora Tavares, daughter of Micah Tavares and Alyssa Sturtewagen, and Miles Tavares, son of Micah and Presley Tavares. Officiant was their Great Uncle, Rev. Curt Hoover, Columbia, Tennessee.



*"For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."
Galatians 3:27*

Josh Bieri Bulletin: Joshua with wife, Chrystal, and sons, Jake and Isaac send greetings from Concordia, Fort Wayne Seminary. It was a hectic month of July for them. Josh did pass his Greek class with high grades, and is happy he could help his fellow brothers in passing too. Chrystal has been helping out with some child care the past few weeks for a couple seminary families. It has been great for her to be able to help them out and also get a little spending money for the few items that they need outside of the co-op. She has also been busy putting in our families' volunteer hours at the co-op. We are so grateful to each and every one of you for all of your prayers and support. They know that none of what they are doing would be possible without the help of God's people helping on this marvelous journey that the LORD has put them on. It is for Josh a humbling experience at Concordia Theological Seminary, to learn how to be a shepherd in Christ's flock. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as the road ahead is sure to be difficult, but there is no road that they would rather be on. Joshua Bieri is from Taylor Ridge, IL.

Church Council Report: The treasurer reported as of 8/15/2023 the General Fund balance was \$53,529.21 and the Memoria/Dedicated Fund balance was \$14,908.00. The current mortgage amount is \$143,319.89. There remains to be paid the final payment on elevator repair, and siding repair costs. Giving lags behind the budget amount and expenses for the year.

2023 Oktoberfest dinner has been scheduled for Thursday, October 12th. An organization meeting will be set-up later in September.

Ted will contact the siding contractor to get a start and finish date for the work. The church roof and garage fascia work was finished. It was agreed to purchase and install a “Church Parking Only” sign for the property entrance. Gary reported on approximate costs of installing security cameras for the exterior property. No action was taken at this time.

Pastor is planning to start a three week Evangelism class, “Every One His Witness” in September. Bill suggested that a Sunday in October be designated as “bring another to church” after the class is completed.

Below: Cheryl and Carol wrap the LWR Personal Care Kits from donated items by Faith members. WOF say “thank you all.”



Below: Five boxes of Personal Care Kits await shipping to Lutheran World Relief later this fall.



Above: Women of Faith members prepared and packed 48 Personal Care kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief from Faith, Kewanee.



Every One His Witness® Lutheran evangelism program puts sound doctrine into practical action for sharing the faith with people in our everyday lives.

Participants will learn the “how-to” of witnessing using the LASSIE approach — Listen-Ask-Seek-Share-Invite-Encourage — to our non-churched friends, co-workers, neighbors, and family members.

This training is open to all members of Faith, and will be held on Saturday mornings starting in September 16, 23, & 30 at 10:00 AM. Everyone is encouraged to attend to help spread the Good News of salvation.

Q: What is the human soul according to the Bible?

A: The human soul is that part of a person without matter and form that is eternal—the part that lives on after the body dies. Jesus said we were not to fear men, who can only kill the body, but not the soul (Matthew 10:28). There is some disagreement as to whether the human spirit and the human soul are the same thing, or different in some way. Again, there is very little in the Bible to tell us what differences exist between the two. However, there is indication in the New Testament that they are separate entities working as one (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12). Each human soul is individual and immortal, immediately created by God in His image. The soul does not die with the body, from which it is separated by death, and with which it will be reunited in the final resurrection.

When Christians die in faith, our souls go to heaven awaiting the final consummation of all things on the day Christ returns. We shall receive glorified bodies that are free from tears, pain, sickness and age—perfectly renewed and glorified resurrection bodies. Those who accept the free gift of forgiveness and Christ's atoning sacrifice will experience eternal life and peace in heaven.