



Acts of Faith

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



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As Lent is over, we no longer sing the sad sounding songs in the minor keys. Easter and Spring are here. We trade in the dark clothing for bright and springy colors. We sing “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” and “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven and Voices Raise!” Easter provides Christians a needed blitz of joy. The Easter Season of the Church lasts 48 days followed as the Church grows through the Season of Pentecost! Despite all this, we live in a sin broken world where Lent seems longer than Easter, and bad news will keep coming even after Easter. Illness does not vanish when the women approach the empty tomb. We don’t want a false sense of bliss. We need REAL resurrection, one that visits the life we know. When you hear the Easter message that Jesus has risen just as He said, the message also shouts that terror, illness, and violence will never have the last word. They happen all too readily, but God has the last word. The grace of God is this: We can mess it up, but we can’t blow it! Human beings may act irresponsibly, but God will always take the pen from our hand and write the final chapter.

An Easter Message from LCMS President Harrison

“The hard work is over, says Luther. Christ has done everything for our salvation. It’s done! And, Luther says, it is as though our resurrection has already taken place in Jesus,” said the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison. Whatever you face in this Easter season ... know that Christ is yours, and ours is eternal life. Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed. Alleluia! We celebrate Easter 52 times a year. Join us any Easter Sunday. Christ’s death, resurrection and salvation is proclaimed *every* Sunday — is meant to encourage sometime-worshippers to come every week.

WHERE DID THE EASTER EGG COME FROM?

The following is an excerpt from Pr. Joseph Abrahamson, “Redeeming Holy Days from Pagan Lies—Easter 2,” (2013).

Where did the Easter Egg come from? There are several traditions which converge to bring us the Easter egg. First, there is a sculpture on the Persepolis in ancient Iran of a line of people bearing gifts on the New Year day celebration on the spring equinox. One of the many different gifts carried by the people in this sculpture appears to be an egg. This was carved by the old pagan Zoroastrians from ancient Persia (modern Iran). From this sculpture modern pagans have conjectured that Christians stole the idea of using eggs at Easter from the ancient Zoroastrians. The problem is that none of the writers in the ancient Christian church mention this tradition where they came into contact with Zoroastrians. Still, the modern neo-pagans assert that the egg is an ancient sign of fertility.

Of the traditions that actually do contribute to Christianity using eggs in the Easter celebration there are two to consider. Second: In the celebration of the Passover meal, which Christ celebrated the night before He was crucified, a roasted whole egg is placed as one of six food items on the Passover plate. The egg symbolizes the Passover sacrifice that was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem and was then eaten as part of the meal on Seder night. The egg was introduced to the Passover meal after the Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. The egg was the first dish served at Jewish funerals in the time of Christ’s ministry on earth. The egg was also used as a symbol of mourning the loss of the Temple where the Passover Lamb was sacrificed. It is usually eaten dipped in salt water, which symbolizes the bitter tears of the people. Early Christians in the first and second century continued to celebrate the Passover along with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Primarily, the Passover was celebrated because of Christ’s institution of the Lord’s Supper.

Third: The church season preceding Easter is called Lent. The season of Lent is a fast... In both the eastern and western Church this meant fasting from meat and bird flesh—including eggs. Eggs were used to break the Lenten fast on Easter Morning. In preparation for this breaking of the fast the eggs were decorated to commemorate the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as the Paschal Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world. The breaking of the shell became a symbol of Christ’s rending of the tomb.

Indeed, the use of decorated eggs to celebrate Christ’s resurrection on Easter morning is so widespread across the world and so closely tied with the spread of Christianity that one cannot call it anything but a Christian tradition. But that doesn’t keep the neo-pagans and modern commentators from trying to claim that Christian’s “stole” this so-called “pagan” tradition.

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

April's Calendar

- Apr. 02 **Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.
- Apr. 04 **Lenten Service**
- Apr. 09 **Palm Sunday**
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.
- Apr. 13 **Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM**
with Holy Communion
- Apr. 14 **Good Friday Service 6:30 PM**
- Apr. 16 **Happy Easter 9:00 AM**
- Apr. 17 LifeLight Study starts 1:00 PM
- Apr. 18 Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM
- Apr. 23 **First Sunday After Easter**
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.
- Apr. 24 LifeLight Study 1:00 PM
- Apr. 30 **Second Sunday after Easter**
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.

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 April 24, 2017.

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

Altar Guild Schedule

April 09	Marilyn Sturtevant	Red
April 13	Mary Hahn	White
April 14	Marilyn Sturtevant	Black
April 16	Sharon Larson	White
April 23	Kari Tavares	White
April 30	Mary Hahn	White

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 Sunday: 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

April Cleaning Schedule

<u>Week starting</u>	<u>Team#</u>	<u>Type</u>
April 2	Team #4	Weekly
April 9	Team #5	Weekly
April 16	Team #6	Weekly
April 29	Everyone	Spring Cleaning
April 30	Team #1	Weekly

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

Our Faith family: Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Doris Hier, Heidi Heinrich, and Lois Novotny

Friends: Rev. Wegener, Karen Wright, Judi Umbarger, and SSG Camie Kelly



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.



Special Thanks: Our gratitude goes out Glen Godke, Wayne Becker, and Ted Sturtevant for their work to repair and clean the ceiling and walls in preparation of the new painting done by John Jaegers and his son. The Sanctuary and Nave look wonderful.

Thank you to Marvin Novotny for his years of service as Elder and Usher at Faith. God bless him and his family.

April Birthdays

April 1	Emma Cox
April 4	Lacey Leezer
April 4	Andrew Yarger
April 7	Marcelene Godke
April 10	Lauri Cochran
April 10	Yancy Gillespie
April 12	Peggy Faber
April 15	Raymond Heinrich
April 15	Lorie Townsend
April 16	Abigail Clapper
April 17	Vanda Hallock
April 21	Logan Hernandez
April 25	Kelly Gillespie
April 25	Larry Gillespie
April 28	Marlin Gillespie
April 29	Sharon Field

Baptism Dates

Joy Hernandez Butler	Apr. 4
Julie Carpenter	Apr. 19
Abigail Clapper	Apr. 27
Mary Duncan	Apr. 21
Michael Estes	Apr. 16
Charles Heinrich	Apr. 23
Jaxson Hicks	Apr. 20
Marvin Newman	Apr. 20
Fred Stapel	Apr. 18
Milton Stapel	Apr. 5
Kari Tavares	Apr. 1

Wedding Anniversaries

Peggy and Steven Faber	April 3
Sandra and Nicholas Phillips	April 8
Carol and James Cook	April 16

Easter Changes Our Giving Attitude Easter is a moveable feast. Easter isn't on the same calendar date every year in the way that Christmas is always celebrated on December 25. The date for Easter each year always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox. And once you find the date of Easter, everything else finds its place—Good Friday and Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday, the Transfiguration, the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost.

All this is a long way of saying that Easter determines everything. Easter defines everything. It orders not only the entire church year, but it orders our very lives. It defines and gives meaning to our lives, as well to the things that happen in them. And since Easter defines everything, that means it changes everything too. It redefines who we are and where we stand with God and with one another. Easter makes all things new.

Without Easter, Jesus would not be raised from the dead. Without Easter death would still reign, we would still be in our trespasses and sins, and our faith and hope would be in vain. But Jesus is raised from the dead. Easter changes everything. It makes all things new. Therefore, darkness is overcome with light, wrath with peace, fear with hope, angst with rest, sadness with joy, hatred with love, sin with righteousness, and death with life. Easter changes everything, redefines everything, determines everything. Easter makes all things new.

Thus, Easter also changes our attitude about giving. For if God gave us His own Son into death so that we will live, how will He not give us everything else we need? He will, and He does. He provides for us. He even gives us the gifts that we give back to Him for service in the church. Easter demonstrates that we have a God who loves us, a God who provides for us, a God who presses us into His service, a God who has made us new in the death and resurrection of His Son.

For when you give to the church, you pass along those things that God alone has given to you. You pass along the message to others that Easter changes everything and makes all things new, even as it has done this for you. This is not a burden, but pure joy. For God has given you a part in the administration of His kingdom. He provides for the needy through your hands. He ensures that the Gospel is preached and the Sacraments are given out through the work of your hands and in the gifts that you give. And He honors and blesses this work and generosity as it redounds to those around you.

So when you sit down on the first day of the week to make your offering to the place where Easter is proclaimed and where the gifts of Easter are given out, remember: Easter changes everything. It makes all things new. More than that: Easter has changed you and made you new. Because Jesus who was crucified for our transgressions is raised for our justification.

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. John 11:25-26

Welcome

A warm welcome to our new members, **Pam and Mark Braunlich**, from Princeton, Illinois. Help them get to know us better by introducing yourself to them.

Women of Faith will be meeting on Thursday, April 20th, at 10:00 AM at the church. Carol Schwefel will be the host, and Mary Hahn will lead a Bible Study from the Spring LWML Quarterly magazine entitled, "Changeless." All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend. A Hobo soup Lunch will be served so bring a can of soup for the pot with you.

Praise the Lord because the International LWML has surpassed its two million dollar mission bi-annual goal in March. LWML will be able to fund all 19 Mite projects of their 2015 Convention.



Easter Lilies can be ordered to decorate the church at Easter Sunday by signing the list in the Narthex. The cost is \$5.00. Contact Donna Becker with any questions. Requests should be done by April 9th, and payment placed in an envelope and in the offering plate.

LifeLight Foundations-"Ministry" will begin on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 1:00

PM in the fellowship hall. The nine session topics are:

Lesson 1-Getting Started

Lesson 2-Basic Principles

Lesson 3-God's People and God's Preachers

Lesson 4-God Calls Pastors for the Sake of His Church

Lesson 5-Who Can Be a Pastor

Lesson 6-Women Pastors?

Lesson 7-Ordination

Lesson 8-Time for a Change?

Lesson 9-Pastor and People Together



The goal of LifeLight is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ. Contact Marilyn Sturtevant if you would like to join us in study and fellowship.



Spring Cleanup Day Scheduled

Saturday, **April 29th**, has been designated as Spring Church Cleanup day for Faith congregation. Starting at 8:00AM please bring rags, buckets, sponges, ladders, your favorite cleaning equipment, and a joyful attitude. Many hands make the effort go faster. Please give us the time as you are available.

In your April prayers please remember our CID District's mercy ministry **LERT** (Lutheran Early Response Training). This loving ministry helps churches and people hurting from natural disasters. Please pray for our LERT volunteer leaders (Randy Wolf, Stephen Born, Rev. Tom Heren, Rev. Ron Wagner, and Dan Duval) and the work of the over 700 CID lay people now trained. If you are interest in training contact the CID for more information on this ministry.

