



Acts of Faith

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



April 2019

Volume 19 Issue 4

Pastor Paul Weber home: 309-764-3144 cell: 309-716-4759 email: chapemcc@gmail.com

The Cross: Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh, fulfilled the law for us – in our place and for our benefit; died for us – in our place and for our benefit; and is risen from the dead for us – in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon His work and not ours. All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ.

“When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by Baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” Romans 6:3-5 These words are usually included in funeral and memorial services. Sunday, April 21, we will celebrate Christ’s resurrection on Easter morning. This is a grand and glorious festival worship service, full of “alleluias” and the joy of the empty tomb and new life! We dare not, however, skip over Christ’s suffering and death that we observe Maundy Thursday and Good Friday of Holy Week.

The reality of sin is that there is suffering and death in this world. God’s activity and God’s glory are often hidden from us, because of it. If there was none of this, Jesus would never have had to go to the cross. But there is, and He did! This is the world in which we live, and the world into which Jesus was sent to save.

“Baptized into his death” as St Paul states in Romans, means we have been crucified with Christ. “We know that our old self was crucified with him” (Romans 6:6) and again, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:19-20) So if we want the glory of the resurrection life, we must first acknowledge and accept Christ’s crucifixion and death.

God never promised that our life in this world would be carefree, without trials and troubles. He promised He would be with us, and if we trust solely in Him, He will carry us through all life’s circumstances, and in the end have life with Him forever.

While we don’t dwell on what’s wrong in this world, neither do we ignore it. If not for disease, evil, suffering, and hatred, there would be no need for Jesus to set it right. In order to appreciate the resurrection, we must embrace the cross. It’s not just a symbol of our faith, the cross gives meaning to our faith. Without the cross of Christ, there would be no resurrection of Christ. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is not in order to receive blessings, but because in Christ we already have.



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! We are risen indeed! Alleluia!

More Good News: Rev. Timothy Nerud has accepted a call from St. John Lutheran, Geneseo, to serve as Pastor. Rev. Nerud will be installed on Sunday, June 9, 2019. This service will begin at 3 pm followed by a dinner.

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

| <i>Altar Guild Schedule</i> | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| April 07 | Sharon Larson | Purple |
| April 14 | Kari Tavares | Purple |
| April 18 | Marilyn Sturtevant | White |
| April 19 | Marilyn Sturtevant | Black |
| April 21 | Mary Hahn | White |
| April 28 | Sharon Larson | White |

| <i>April's Calendar</i> | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Apr. 07 | Fifth Sunday of Lent Worship with Holy Communion Mite collection |
| Apr. 11 | Lenten Service 6:30 PM |
| Apr. 14 | Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion |
| Apr. 16 | Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM |
| Apr. 18 | Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM with Holy Communion WOF meeting at 10:00 AM |
| Apr. 19 | Good Friday Service 6:30 PM |
| Apr. 21 | Happy Easter 9:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion |
| Apr. 28 | First Sunday After Easter Worship with Holy Communion |

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

Have a Blessed Easter

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, 2019.

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.

Those For Whom We Pray: Please include the following in your thoughts and daily prayers.
Our Faith family: Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Joyce Long, Fred Stapel, Bonnie Nuding, and Ray Heinrich
Friends: Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Judi Umbarger, Pam Braunlich, and military personnel.
Infrequent Attendees –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, and Trinity, Coal Valley, are calling shepherds to lead their congregations. Pray that God grant these congregations patience, wisdom, and discernment in this process.



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.

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

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 10 | Heather Weber |
| April 12 | Peggy Faber |
| April 14 | Rev. Paul Weber |
| April 15 | Raymond Heinrich |
| April 15 | Lorie Townsend |
| April 17 | Vanda Hallock |
| April 21 | Logan Hernandez |
| April 25 | Kelly Gillespie |
| April 25 | Larry Gillespie |
| April 28 | Marlin Gillespie |

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 |

LifeLight Bible Study will start on April 29th at 1:00 PM. This session will be on Ephesians / 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Each lesson will go from 1:00– 2:30 PM with fellowship at the end of each session. Please contact Gary Hahn or leave a note in the office if you are interested in joining this nine session study as study guides need to be ordered prior to the class.

Doris Hepner left this veil of tears and joined her Savior on February 11, 2019. The family has planned a celebration of life service 10:00 am on April 6, 2019 at Faith Lutheran. We pray for the family that God will strengthen them during this grieving period with the reassurance that one day she will rise up again in a glorified body.



Easter Lilies can be ordered to decorate the church on 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 14th, and payment placed in an envelope and put in the offering plate.

Women of Faith: The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, **April 18**, at 10:00AM for a Bible Study, "Running the Race" from the Spring LWML Quarterly. Yvonne Wegener is the hostess. Please bring a can of non-cream soup to make a pot of Hobo stew for lunch.

On April 7th, Women of Faith invite you to bring your mites in support of the LWML Mission Grant, Programs of Restoration in Paradise Lost Indian Mission. Hawaii to most Americans is a vacation paradise with beautiful beaches and warm sunshine filled carefree days. To the native Kanaka people life has been full of pain and suffering since the island was colonized. Many were victimized in ways similar to the Native American Indian. Many of these people are hardworking, but cannot afford the extreme high cost of island living.

Lutheran Indian Ministries is at work in Hawaii with the Kanaka people, and a Kanaka-to-Kanaka program was started. Clarence, a Kanaka man, has completed two years of theological training and is working with Lutheran Ministries to be a witness of God's love, to train new leaders in the Christian faith, and to address the spiritual, social, and emotional needs of his people. Women of Faith thank you for your generous support in prayers and mites for these mission grants.



Council Notes: The March Council meeting reported a general fund balance of \$31,060.34, and a Designated Fund balance of \$12,273.02. Our statistical report indicates a congregational membership of 146 names, but who could tell that from our sparse Sunday attendance. If you know someone who is not attending, please encourage them to do so. The Elders will be sending out letters inquiring of those no longer living in the area concerning their worshiping desires. Congregational support is lagging in meeting our budgetary requirements.

Faith did receive a Church Extension Rebate of \$2910.25 for 2018,

A few digest size Portals of Prayers booklets were ordered for Apr.-Jun. as a trial. Let Pastor or Paula know what you think of this larger print tract. Large print size booklets are also available.

Good Friday: On April 19th, Good Friday, a Tre Ore service beginning at 12 pm – 3 pm will be held at St John Lutheran, rural Geneseo. This is a Rock Island Circuit supported service. Tre Ore, or **Three Hours' Agony**, is a service held in some Lutheran churches on Good Friday from noon until 3 o'clock to commemorate the three hours of Christ's hanging on the cross. Good Friday service at Faith will be at 6:30 PM.



2019 CID Spring Pastors' Conference will be held on May 6-8 At St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Decatur, IL. The theme for the conference is **STEWARDSHIP IN THE PARISH** with guest speakers: Rev. Heath Curtis, Rev. Dr. Wayne Knolhoff, and Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb.

Bible-believing Christians in Illinois are living in Lot's shoes while living in Sodom. Our government insists on promoting what God calls crimes: killing babies in the womb, homosexuality, lawlessness in general. Our state mandates the teaching of lies: that God did not create you, that people can change their sex, that gambling is good. What are we doing to help God call our neighbors "out of the darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Pet. 2:9)? Must God send angels to drag us out of sinful entanglements? May He be so gracious to us! May God prevent us from becoming accustomed to evil! May God lead us to repentance this Lent, and, for the sake of Christ's atoning death, may He forgive us, renew us, and lead us to walk in His ways to the glory of His holy name! Pastor Mark Eddy

Can God Forgive Me?

In addition to his responsibilities as a parish pastor, Pastor Steve Southward works in prison ministry. Currently he serves inmates at three Illinois facilities, including Western Illinois Correctional Center in Mount Sterling.

There, on one occasion, an inmate asked Pastor Southward a question after Bible study. This man was serving two consecutive life sentences for murdering two people. What he wanted to know was: could God forgive him for what he did?

He had asked God to forgive him, he said. Yet he just wasn't sure whether the all-important forgiveness would be granted. This was the uncertainty that caused him to approach Pastor Southward.

"Father, forgive them" was the very first thing Jesus said from the cross, Pastor Southward pointed out. Can Jesus forgive murderers? Look what He was saying about those who were in the process of murdering Him! Yes, God forgives, Pastor Southward went on, quoting 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Yes, Pastor Southward said, God forgives you. Then he asked whether the troubled man believed this. He said he did. Pastor Southward assured him that because of God's promise on account of Christ, he could be certain of God's love and pardon for his sins.

The man smiled. A tremendous weight had been lifted, he said.

Three months later this inmate died of cancer. He died having been assured that God's forgiveness was also for him because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

"I was truly humbled," says Pastor Southward.

The Lord has used your congregation's gifts to the Central Illinois District to put Pastor Steve Southward into Illinois prisons for more than a quarter-century. Thank you!

"I thank my God . . . because of your partnership in the gospel" (Phil. 1:3-5).