



Acts of Faith

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



December 2017

Volume 17 Issue 12

Vacancy Pastor : Rev. Chris Bushre

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From Pastor:

As we enter December and the Advent season, and can see Christmas quickly coming over the horizon, the thoughts of many, especially children, inevitably turn to presents and gifts. Isn't that a great deal of the excitement for children on Christmas morning? I've heard a lot of talk in my house about "what I want for Christmas." And so, since that is the season, let's talk about gifts.

The biggest *earthly* gift anyone can receive is the gift of family. Children are gifts from our God, as are spouses. Though everyone has those moments where the sinner in them shines through loud and clear, we still need to view our spouses and children as the gifts from God they are. The holidays are a great time to do that.

It should continually amaze us when we think about how much God has done for us. He created us, He provides for our every need, He sent His Son to die for us, and He gives us these beautiful people, spouses and children, to spend the rest of our lives with. Maybe, we'd like to think it was our charm and good looks that won our spouse over, but, I think there's much more to it than that. A spouse is truly a gift from the Lord. We didn't deserve him or her, He just gave them to us. And through the gift of spouse comes the gift of children. The only way to thank Him for all He's done for us is to take care of the gifts He's given us. A spouse is a gift, and gifts aren't given back when you get tired of them or when times get hard. Gifts from such a great God as we have are cherished for a lifetime. And the best way to care for and reassure your children is to love their mother or father. On Christmas morning, along with a Transformer or Princess doll, what a child really wants is for their family to be together. Treat you entire family as the gift they are.

All this brings me to another gift, a *spiritual* gift, and the greatest gift there is. Now that we are in Advent and are approaching the Christmas season, we look forward to the most wonderful gift of all: when the Word became flesh. Man is sinful, but God so loved the world that He sent His Son to die for it. Christ, the Son of God, lowered Himself for us. He took on human flesh and died a terrible death on the cross so that we might have life. There is no better gift than that. I will cherish all these gifts from my Lord.

In this time of mangers, stars, wisemen, and shepherds, we see the beginning of something truly special. It is also the fulfillment of something very old, the subject of so many Old Testament promises. As you celebrate this Christmas with your family, and anytime you reflect on your marriage and family, remember God's gifts. Remember, especially, THE GIFT that He sent. This holiday season, we celebrate the coming of the Christ child, when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. It is the greatest gift of all. It is eternal life in Christ Jesus. Merry Christmas, from my family to yours! God's richest blessings to you!

In Christ,
Pastor Bushre

It has please our Heavenly Father to take from this vale of tears to their eternal home the souls of Marilyn Heiser (11-16-2017) and Robert Snyder (11-18-2017). Marilyn's funeral was here at Faith on November 20th with Pastor Bushre, and Bob's was here on November 22 with Pastor Liese, St. Paul, Brimfield, IL.

We pray for the grieving families knowing their loved ones are now with our resurrected Savior, Jesus Christ.

The congregation will be decorating the Nave and Sanctuary on Saturday, December 9th, beginning at 9:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome to help adorn our church for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season.



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

<i>December's Calendar</i>	
Dec. 02	<i>First Sunday in Advent</i> Worship & S.S. 5:00 Bible Study 4:00 PM Mite box collection
Dec. 09	<i>Second Sunday in Advent</i> Worship 5:00 and Bible Study 4:00 PM
Dec. 14	Women of Faith Luncheon Noon
Dec. 16	<i>Third Sunday in Advent</i> Worship 5:00 and Bible Study 4:00 PM Elders and Council Mtgs. 3:00 & 3:30 PM
Dec. 23	<i>Fourth Sunday in Advent</i> Worship 5:00 and Bible Study 4:00 PM
Dec. 24	<i>Christmas Eve Nativity of our Lord</i> Candle Lighting Service 4:30 PM
Dec. 25	Christmas Day No service
Dec. 30	<i>First Sunday after Christmas</i> Worship 5:00 and Bible Study 4:00 PM No communion

<i>Altar Guild Schedule</i>		
Dec. 02	Mary Hahn	Blue
Dec. 09	Kari Tavares	Blue
Dec. 16	Marilyn Sturtevant	Blue
Dec. 23	Sharon Larson	Blue
Dec. 24	Mary Hahn	White
Dec. 30	Marilyn Sturtevant	White

Weekly Ushers:

1st Saturday: Ray Heinrich & Kevin Hull
2nd Saturday: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
3rd Saturday: Nick Philips & Randy Stockner
4th Saturday: 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

Should an emergency develop please contact any Elder or Rev. Bushre.

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

November Cleaning Schedule

Week starting	Team#	Type
Dec. 03	Team #2	Weekly
Dec. 10	Team #4	Weekly
Dec. 17	Team #5	Monthly
Dec. 24	Team #6	Weekly

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, Lois Novotny, Joyce Long, JoAnn Behnke, Mona Kubiak, Bonnie Nuding, Carol Schwefel, and the families of Marilyn Heiser and Robert Snyder.

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

CID: To appreciate all the efforts of our churches and District Missions to point people to Christ. Let our thanksgiving be for the gift of our Savior's birth in human flesh at Bethlehem, and for St. Matthew, Milan with a pastoral vacancy.



Prayer Requests: Have someone or something that you would like to include in either 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.

Altar Guild is made up of men, women and couples who serve the Lord and the church by caring for the altar and the ceremonial aspects of church services. They refill the candle oil, prepare for Holy Communion, change the paraments when necessary, and clean Communion vessels and linens.

Additional members are needed! If you can assist, please contact Marilyn Sturtevant (309-853-8203).



December Birthdays

Joy Hernandez Butler	12/02
Carol Cook	12/03
Sandra Phillips	12/05
Madison Carpenter	12/07
Mathew Peed	12/08
Lisa Huseby	12/08
Cheryl Snyder	12/13
Corey Tavares	12/13
Ashley Phillips	12/15
Ernst Heinrich	12/16
Nicholas Leezer	12/16
Kaitlin Phillips	12/22
Hunter Damm	12/29
Alyssa Croegaert	12/31

Baptism Dates

Karen Adkison	12/21
Judy Bridgewater	12/19
Justin Carper	12/05
Alyssa Croegaert	12/31
Marcelene Godke	12/21
Jacob Hernandez	12/18
Linda Jacobs	12/23
Corey Tavaras	12/22
Mica Tavaras	12/23
Mallery Tudder	12/17
Kim Tudder	12/29

Wedding Anniversaries

Lorie & Brian Elgin	12/13
Mary & Meredith Duncan	12/30

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.”

Acts 2:38

Women of Faith: The ladies thank Rev. Bushre and the congregation for helping in the LWML recognition service.

On Thursday, December 14th, WOF will hold their Christmas Luncheon at the Sturtevant home at noon. Remember to bring a “white elephant” item for game prizes.

LWML is helping feed hungry children world-wide through a 2017-2019 Mission Grant. To learn more about how the grant is feeding children and sharing the saving Gospel of Christ through Mercy Meals of the Heartland, go to www.lwml.org and check out grant #1.



Red poinsettias will once again be used to decorate our Sanctuary to enhance the beauty of God's house. It is a wonderful opportunity to remember loved ones in memorial or tribute by dedicating one or more of these plants. The price will be approximately \$10 each and you may take them home following the January 6th worship service. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex or call the church office by Saturday, December 16, if you would like to purchase one.



Bible Study: Rev. Bushre is leading a pre-service Bible study at 4:00 PM. The class is reviewing the video titled “Christianity and the Competition” by Dr. Paul Maier. The world horizon is littered with competing religions and philosophies. Which has it right? In this session study, Dr. Paul Maier helps sort through the litter and reveals the “gold nuggets” of the Christian faith that separates it from all the rest of the options.

Seasonal Worship: There will be no Advent services at Faith. You are invited to attend Concordia, Geneseo on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM beginning on December 6th. Their children’s program will be on December 20th. Our **Christmas Eve** candle lighting service will be December 24, at 4:30 PM here at Faith.

Concordia, Geneseo, will hold Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 PM and 11:00 PM, and a 9:00 AM Service on Christmas Day. New Year's Eve Service will be held at Concordia at 6:00 PM Dec. 31st.

St. John’s, Geneseo, will hold have a Children's Christmas Service on Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. And a 10:00 AM Service on Christmas Day.

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 December 20, 2017.

Support for Troops: Three boxes of collected items were shipped to Chaplain Weber at Fort Hood, TX.

A Christmas card is available in the Narthex for Rev. Weber for members to sign. We plan to send this card on December 10th with intentions of him receiving it before they leave for the Middle-east.

Cleaning Volunteers: Since the founding of Faith Kewanee, we have enjoyed the efforts of volunteer cleaners to help with the cleaning of our church building. Working as a team or as an individual (depending upon your schedule needs) the crews vacuum the carpeted areas and tiled floors, clean the church restrooms, touch up the glass doorways, and dust window sills.

Currently, we are down two of the six cleaning teams. If volunteers cannot be found to replace these cleaning teams, we may have to consider contracting the work out creating more expense for our budget.

Please consider joining a cleaning crew and let Marilyn know so she can assign you to a team.

Sponsor a Soldier: Faith Lutheran has agreed to sponsor five (5) soldiers in Rev. Weber's unit for five months (January thru May 2017) as part of Heather Weber's Military Mama Network campaign for care packages for the servicemen. Anyone interested in filling one or more of these care boxes please let Gary or Mary Hahn know. The \$18 postage for each box will be paid by the congregational funds raised at the Oktoberfest Dinner. The boxes are free at the post office. The names will be given out in December for package pick up and the first shipment in January 2018.

A member of the network will pick up the boxes and the postage each month and ship them to the names on the boxes. The address of the soldiers cannot be given out.

Suggested Care Package Items (Individually wrapped or packaged)

- Protein and granola bars
- Wrapped hard candies, Tootsie pops, suckers, jolly ranchers, etc.
- Rice Krispies treats
- Small cans of Pringles, or cracker packages (peanut butter, cheese)
- Small packs of Nuts (all kinds)
- Chewing gum and mints
- Personal hygiene items(toothpaste, razors, bar soap)
- Sport's balls, Frisbees, magazines, games, cards
- Stuffed animals, as service members will sometimes give them out to children in their area.
- Baby wipes in packs not tubes
- Beef Jerky/Slim Jims
- Powdered Energy/Electrolyte Replacement Drink Mix (Gatorade, etc.)
- Zip-Lock style Plastic Storage Bags
- Eye Wash / Drops
- Sunflower seeds
- AA-cell Alkaline Batteries



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!

Also, please let the office know if there has been any change in your address, phone number, status, or e-mail address.



*Christmas Blessings and a Prosperous New Year
From all of us at Faith Lutheran in Kewanee.*