



Acts of Faith

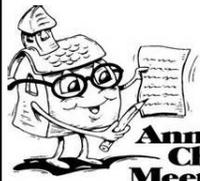
Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Kewanee, Illinois



February/March 2017

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Annual Church Meeting

Voters Meeting Notes: On January 8th, Faith Evangelical Lutheran held a Voter's Assembly meeting. Chairman Bill Croegaert called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved. The treasurer reported in 2016 our income was \$110,316 which included some one time giving gifts and memorial monies, and our expenses were \$78,530. Our account balance to date is \$41,631.32 in general fund and \$18,388.27 in the designated fund. Our building mortgage is now under \$300,000. The assembly approved paying \$4000 per month on the mortgage as long surplus funds were available. Faith has received notice from the estate of Larry Krahn that Faith is named as recipient of a \$10,000 life insurance policy to be used as necessary by the congregation. (A \$1000 gift is being sent from the Bob Stabler estate per a letter from the Stabler family.)

In other business the assembly approved three LCMS constitution wording amendments, adopted the new Mission Statement for Faith, along with Marriage and Facility Use policies as presented in the December newsletter, acknowledged the military commitment of Pastor Weber in the event his National Guard unit is activated, and adopted our 2017 Budget with an additional provision of \$500 for landscaping and grounds expenses. The projected income is \$96,000 and the expected expenses are \$90,736.

Elected to the Church Council were Gary Hahn as Vice Chairman and Trustee, and Wendell Hier and Kevin Hull as Elders.

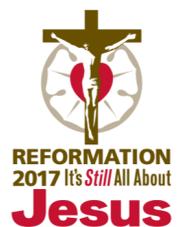
A suggestion was made and the voters approved the establishment a memorial fund account in the memory of Rev. Robert Yount, Faith's first pastor, who died last December. The purchase of a processional cross was submitted as a possible memorial to Rev. Yount. Anyone wishing to contribute to this memorial should note on an envelope their gift.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be on July 10, 2017.

REFORMATION 500TH ANNIVERSARY

A new full-length feature film "Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World" premieres Feb. 15 in select locations around the country, including St. Louis. Funded by a grant from Thrivent Financial, this entertaining new film brings to life the dramatic moments that shaped Luther, and examines the universal questions he wrestled with, like "Who am I?" "What is my purpose?" and "How do I get right with God?"

Thanks to a special distribution arrangement, any LCMS congregation can host a screening at a movie theater in their community at no cost. Screenings are encouraged as a way to reach out to the community in celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



LWML MITES: On Sunday, March 5, Women of Faith invite you to bring your mites to support the LWML mission grant, **Healthy Families — Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska.**

The Centers for Healthy Families is a part of Lutheran Families Services of Nebraska. As a chosen LWML grant recipient, funds provided through our mite offerings will provide pregnant mothers, infants and children under five with much needed support with their earthly needs while participating in programs designed to aid in meeting their spiritual needs. Services provided by local Lutheran congregations support the initiative with volunteers who lead Bible studies and provide the love and support of a safe and caring family unit missing in high risk families. More information on the Centers for Healthy Families can be found at www.lfsneb.org/

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

February's Calendar

- Feb. 05 **Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.**
- Feb. 12 **Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.**
- Feb. 14 Valentines Day Observance
- Feb. 19 **Seventh Sunday after Epiphany
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.**
- Feb. 20 Presidents Day Observance
- Feb. 21 Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM
- Feb. 26 **Transfiguration of our Lord
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.**
- Feb. 28 **Shrove Tuesday 6:30 PM
Worship with communion**

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. "Shrove" is the past tense of the English word "shrive," which means to hear a confession, and absolve from sin. Shrove Tuesday is a reminder that we are entering a season of penance. Lent is a time of abstinence, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Sausage and pancakes are customarily eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent.

Faith will hold a Mid-week service with the Holy Sacrament on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

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 3, 2017.

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

Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program
 Station City, State Freq. Day & Time
 WKEI Kewanee, IL 1450 AM Sun 5:30 AM

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.

Altar Guild Schedule

February 05	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
February 12	Joan Behnke/ Bonnie Nuding	Green
February 19	Sharon Larson	Green
February 26	Marilyn Sturtevant	White
February 28	Marilyn Sturtevant	Purple

Weekly Ushers:

- 1st Sunday: Ray Heinrich & Kevin Hull
- 2nd Sunday: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
- 3rd Sunday: Marvin Novotny & 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

Happy Valentines Day



1 John 4:7 - Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

February Cleaning Schedule

Week starting	Team#	Type
February 05	Team #3	Weekly
February 12	Team #2	Weekly
February 19	Team #4	Monthly
February 26	Team #5	Weekly

February Birthdays

James Nuding	2/01	Sandy Gillespie	2/17
Milton Stapel	2/02	Mark Helmkamp	2/17
Cal Breedlove	2/05	Sue Cervantez	2/18
Melissa Newman	2/06	Kari Tavares	2/21
Tara Hicks	2/10	Claudia Croegaert	2/23
Miah Townsend	2/10	Fred Stapel	2/24
Cari Bridgewater	2/11	Nick Phillips	2/25
Nancy Tudder	2/12	Melissa Carper	2/26
Rebecca Ault	2/13	June Hull	2/27
Paula Leezer	2/16	Marvin Newman	2/27

Wedding Anniversaries

Cheryl & Robert Snyder	2/10
Karen & Milton Stapel	2/29

Baptism Dates

JoAnn Behnke	2/28
Addyson Hicks	2/28

Time, Talent, and Treasure: We've all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses." Only then do we confess that he gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the *and*, but when we read it, we read it with the *or*. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolled that everything that we have and are is a gift from God and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose which of the trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, *or* treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are given to us and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, *AND* treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together.

March's Calendar

- Mar. 01 Ash Wednesday (no service)
- Mar. 05 First Sunday in Lent**
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.
LWML Mite gathering
- Mar. 07 Lenten Service 6:30PM
- Mar. 09 WOF meeting 9:00 AM
- Mar. 12 Second Sunday in Lent**
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.
- Mar. 14 Lenten Service 6:30PM
- Mar. 19 Third Sunday in Lent**
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.
- Mar. 21 Lenten Service 6:30PM
Elders Mtg. 7:30 PM
Church Council 8:00 PM
- Mar. 26 Fourth Sunday in Lent**
Worship, Bible Study, & S.S.
- Mar. 28 Lenten Service 6:30PM

March Cleaning Schedule

Week starting	Team#	Type
March 05	Team #6	Weekly
March 12	Team #1	Weekly
March 19	Team #2	Monthly
March 26	Team #3	Weekly

Wedding Anniversaries

Julie & Roy Carpenter	3/04
Cindy & Rick Ganschow	3/10
Sandra & Raymond Heinrich	3/15
Mary Kay & Marvin Newman	3/18

March Birthdays

Charles Heinrich	3/01	Jaxson Hicks	3/14
Katherine Cook	3/02	Eric Cervantez	3/16
Bonnie Nuding	3/08	Donald Bridgewater	3/20
Erica Grabbe	3/09	Carol Schwefel	3/20
Elizabeth Godke	3/11	Cindy Ganschow	3/27
Deborah Woods	3/13		

Baptism Anniversaries

Sandra Philips	3/01	Aimery Jackson	3/16
Ernest Heinrich	3/04	Marilyn Sturtevant	3/19
Cal Breedlove	3/06	Tara Hicks	3/23
Austin Peed	3/06	Claudia Croegaert	3/24
Halea Damm	3/12	Mark Helmkamp	3/27
Melissa Newman	3/13		



Although Lent starts before spring appears in many areas, it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, Lent comes from old German and English words for "spring." So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some spiritual spring cleaning.

LENT

Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith — and it's never too early for that. In the church there are 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays), where we bask in the rays of Scripture so that God's Spirit can do His work to prepare our lives. Through His Word of Law He brings repentance. In the light of God's Word we look at our lives and realize that they are not what God expects. God's Word is to make us contrite, that is sorry for our condition. Through His Word of Gospel, we are reminded that Christ died for our sins, forgiving us and therefore we are willing to change our lives, conforming than once again to God's law, what God expects. The time of Lent is to drive us to see the darkness of sin, and turn to the light of God's grace in Christ Jesus.

W.O.F. Women of Faith will be meeting on Thursday, March 9th, at 10:00 AM at the church. They will do a service work event. Bring a sack lunch. A business meeting will follow at 1:00PM. All ladies of the congregation are encouraged to attend. Marilyn Sturtevant will be the hostess and provide the devotion.

