



Acts of Faith

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



January 2018

Volume 18 Issue 1

Vacancy Pastor : Rev. Chris Bushre

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From Pastor:

When Noah and his family emerged from the ark after the Great Flood, the Lord made a covenant with them, the earth, and all creatures of the earth. God said in Genesis 9:13-16, "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

What this means for you and me is that every time it rains here in Western Illinois, and a rainbow appears, God is remembering His covenant not to send another great flood. He's remembering His promise not to destroy us with water. Every time you see a rainbow, your Lord is remembering you. Incredible! God still thinks about all His people individually. He remembers today, and always.

In 1 Corinthians 11:24-25, St. Paul quotes Jesus' words from the Last Supper: "This is my body, which is for you, do this in remembrance of me... This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." In Matthew 26:28, Jesus says, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." These words mean that we receive Jesus' body and blood for forgiveness in Holy Communion. Not only that, but they are saying that *every time* we take Communion, Jesus is present with His body and blood. He wasn't just present at the first Lord's Supper, but at every Lord's Supper. He comes to us even now, in the present.

In Matthew 28:6, an angel says of Jesus, "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." Revelation 19:6 says, "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns." Jesus didn't stay dead. He rose and lives, and even now, He reigns! He's in control of our lives; the One who loved us so much that He gave up His own life for us.

What a wonderful Lord we have! He's not just a historical God, who performed mighty acts in the past, but is now gone or in retirement. He still lives and reigns to this very day, and will continue forever. He still remembers His people. We have the comfort of knowing that every time we see a rainbow, He's thinking of us. And not only is He reigning above us and thinking of us, but He is present with us, coming to us in His body and blood every time we celebrate Communion. Our God is a God of mighty acts in the past AND in the present. He saved us through His Son and is still with us. He's still thinking of us, taking care of us, and coming to us.

As we come into this New Year, remember that whenever you have one of those days, whenever you're frightened, sad, or lonely, and whenever your sins make you question how God could love you, the signs of God's love, the rainbow, the cross, the waters of Baptism, and the bread and wine, give us comfort. They are the earthly reminders that God is with you, even if you don't feel like He is. In Matthew 28:20, Jesus says, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." He is with you in the present. Even now, He lives and reigns, remembers us, and comes to us. Have a blessed 2018!

In Christ,
Pastor Bushre

The congregation will be restoring the Nave and Sanctuary on Saturday, January 13 beginning at 9:00 AM. All volunteers are welcome to clean up our church and store away Christmas decorations.

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

<i>January's Calendar</i>	
Jan. 01	New Years Day
Jan. 04	Women of Faith Mtg. 10:00 AM
Jan. 06	<i>Epiphany</i> Voters Assembly 4:00 PM <i>Worship & S.S. 5:00 PM</i> Mite box collection
Jan. 13	Christmas taken down 9:00 AM <i>Second Sunday After Epiphany</i> <i>Worship 5:00 and Bible Study 4:00 PM</i> Care Package pick up
Jan. 15	M. L. King Day Observance
Jan. 20	<i>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</i> <i>Worship 5:00 and Bible Study 4:00 PM</i> Elders and Council Mtgs. 2:30 & 3:00 PM
Jan. 27	<i>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> <i>Worship 5:00 and Bible Study 4:00 PM</i>

January Cleaning Schedule		
Week starting	Team#	Type
Jan. 07	Team #1	Weekly
Jan. 14	Team #2	Monthly
Jan. 21	Team #3	Weekly
Jan. 28	Team #4	Weekly

<i>Altar Guild Schedule</i>		
Jan. 06	Kari Tavares	White
Jan. 13	Sharon Larson	Green
Jan. 20	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
Jan. 27	Kari Tavares	Green

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

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, Mona Kubiak, Bonnie Nuding, and Carol Schwefel

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



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).



BLESSED NEW YEAR!

January Birthdays

Michael Estes	1/01
JoAnn Behnke	1/04
Dawn Hull	1/14
Dylan Mallery	1/15
Marilyn Sturtevant	1/18
Pamela Helmkamp	1/21
Aimery Jackson	1/21

Baptism Dates

Sharon Larson	1/09
Ashley Phillips	1/02
Kaitlyn Phillips	1/31
Casidy Tavaras	1/10
Theo Tavaras	1/18

Wedding Anniversaries

Nancy & Ralph Gillespie	1/06
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Women of Faith:

On Thursday, January 4th, WOF will hold their next scheduled meeting at 10:00 AM. Mary is hostess and will lead the devotion.

2018 Officers are Mary Hahn, Chairperson, Donna Becker, Vice Chairperson, and Cheryl Snyder, Treasurer and Secretary.

January's mites will be collected on January 6th and will go toward the support the LWML Mission Grant for the Tanzanian Sewing Center. The LWML is helping to teach young girls in Tanzania how to sew, giving them the chance to change their lives and escape poverty and destitution. At the same time, they are learning about the saving grace and love of Jesus and sharing it with their neighbors.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Thank you to the following for donating the beautiful Poinsettias flowers for Christmas:

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Becker (Many Blessings)
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Heinrich (Many Blessings)
Raymond & Carol Robinson (memory of loved ones)
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hahn (memory of parents)
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Croegaert (memory of parents)
JoAnn Behnke (memory of Donald)
Mike & Paula Leezer (memory of loved ones)
Mary Duncan (memory of loved ones)



Poinsettia plants may be taken home or left to adorn the sanctuary as long as their blooms last.

Seasonal Worship: There will not be a New Years Eve service at Faith. New Year's Eve Service will be held at Concordia at 6:00 PM Dec. 31st.

There will not be newsletters this February or March. Look for one coming late in April.

Faith Lutheran Voters Meeting On Saturday, **January 6th** at **4:00 PM** please join us as we adopt our 2018 budget, elect officers, and consider other important church affairs. One item for discussion is the contracting of an outside party to do cleaning in our building because of lack of volunteers to keep it up. The council has chosen to use existing officers for re-election, but additional names for any office can be nominated by the assembly. The council is also seeking estimates to extend the asphalt driving surface to the rear lower level and using memorial dollars to do this next summer.

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 2018) 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 and Customs forms are free at the Post Office. A member of the network will pick up the boxes and the postage each month and ship them. The address of the soldiers cannot be given out.

Please consider adopting a remaining name for five months or donating care package items and place them in the box located in the Narthex to be used in filling the care boxes.

Suggested Care Package Items (Individually wrapped or packaged) No Liquids

- Small packs of nuts, chewing gum, Beef Jerky/Slim Jims, sunflower seeds, and mints
- Protein and granola bars, and Rice Krispies treats
- Wrapped hard candies, Tootsie pops, suckers, jolly ranchers, etc.
- Small cans of Pringles, or cracker packages (peanut butter, cheese)
- Personal hygiene items(toothpaste, razors, bar soap, Eye Wash / Drops)
- Powdered Energy/Electrolyte or flavored drink mixes
- Baby wipes in packs not tubes



Faith's soldier's names and requests are listed below:

Hunter Walker (seasonings (Lawry's), gum, Baby Ruth candy, sweet and sour filled Twizzlers, granola bars, drink flavored packets, cough drops, cookies) adopted by Gary & Mary Hahn

Justin Gilbert (snacks, drink mix, toiletries) available

Michael Novitske (snacks, razors, movies, coffee) adopted by Wayne & Donna Becker

Trevor Johnson (beef jerky, baked goodies, strawberry flavored drink packets, moon pies} adopted by Nancy Tudder & Cheryl Snyder

Samantha Wilson (snacks, baby wipes, hygiene stuff) available

Customs form should include the name of soldier, use Faith Lutheran as the sender and address, complete a generic list of type of items, number of each, and a estimated value. For Example: granola bars 3 \$7, snacks 5 \$10, games 1 \$5, tooth paste 1 \$2. Weights are not required.

Boxes and Custom forms need be ready for pick up at the church by January 13, and each month thereafter. These are soldier's that do not have good support from home and will truly be encourage by these boxes.

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.