



# Acts of Faith

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



January 2020

Volume 20 Issue 1

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**Happy 2020:** Christmas is gone, and another New Year is upon us. A new year is the opportunity to pause and reflect on ourselves. People often seek to improve themselves by making resolutions concerning nutrition, exercise, productivity, and even spirituality.

Let's consider our stewardship of the things that God, out of His divine goodness and mercy has given to us. St. Paul writes: *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God"* (2 Corinthians 9:6–15). St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving of years past, which will help you to change what needs to be changed, improved, or forgotten altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness, and feast on the Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't need your money. He wants you—all of you (Matt 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the Church is and what the Church does. The Church is a mercy place. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection, and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward you and your neighbor. You are a member of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world.

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the Church. Are you giving of your first fruits, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? If God gave you His only Son, He will also provide for you all things. Trust His Word, and heed it. God bless you in the New Year as you faithfully serve Him.

Thank you for all your OFFERINGS and PRAYERS in 2019 to support the mission and ministry here at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church. You are a generous congregation. God bless you all in the New Year.



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

*January's Calendar*

- Jan. 01 New Year's Day
- Jan. 05 2nd Sunday after Christmas with Holy Communion**  
 Voters Assembly 10:00AM  
 Mite box collection
- Jan. 06 Epiphany
- Jan. 09 WOF meeting 10:00 AM
- Jan. 11 Un-decorate the church 9:00 AM
- Jan. 12 Baptism of our Lord with Holy Communion**
- Jan. 13 RI Circuit Mtg. at Faith 9:00 AM
- Jan. 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion**
- Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance
- Jan. 24 National March for Life
- Jan. 26 Third Sunday after Epiphany with Holy communion**

***Altar Guild Schedule***

Jan. 05	Sharon Larson	White
Jan. 12	Leah Weber	White
Jan. 19	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
Jan. 26	Kari Tavares	Green

**Weekly Ushers:**

- 1st Sunday: Gary Hahn & Kevin Hull
- 2nd Sunday: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
- 3rd Sunday: Nick Philips & Randy Stockner
- 4th Sunday: 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

**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, Bonnie Nuding, Nancy Tudder, Cheryl Snyder, Marvin Newman, and Heidi Heinrich.

**Friends:** Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Rev. Burnell Eckhardt, Sue Copeland, Rev. Wegener, Ron Pettit, Steve Scheff, Kent West, and all military personnel and first responders.

**Inactive Members:** 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, is calling a shepherd to lead their congregation. Pray that God grant this congregation a favorable response.



**Christmas poinsettias:** Thank you for the beautiful flowers that adorned our chancel this Christmas.

- Mary & Gary Hahn Loved Ones
- JoAnne Behnke Loved Ones
- Carol & Jim Cook Loved Ones
- Katie & Andy Talbot Loved Ones
- Sue Cervantez Mom & Dad
- Sharon & Ron Larson Larson & Price Families
- Sandy Heinrich Loved Ones
- Paula & Mike Leezer Loved Ones
- Claudia & Bill Croegaert Loved Ones



Special thanks to Wayne and Donna Becker for placing and tending to these plants.

## 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

**Women of Faith:** The ladies of the church thank you for supporting their food collection for the Kewanee Food Pantry in December. Two large boxes were filled to capacity. In addition to the food collected, Thrivent financial contributed \$250 for our congregation to purchase additional food items. The food pantry will be thrilled to receive our contribution.

The women of Faith will be meeting at 10:00 AM on January 9th for a work project, sack lunch, and regular meeting.

Your mites will support LWML Mission Grant #5 — Lutheran Bible Translators — God’s Word Changes Everything. There are over 170 million people who speak more than 1,500 languages who have never read the Bible in their native dialect. Bible translation is absolutely foundational to the mission of the church. This grant will pay for one year of a four-year training program for pastors and church leaders in Tanzania, Ethiopia and elsewhere to be directly involved in translating God’s Word for their people. With your prayers and mite donations, this vital ministry will share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the language of the people.



Rock Island Circuit Pastors will convene at Faith on January 13th at 9:00 AM. Ladies of the congregation are asked to help prepare and serve coffee and snacks for this event. If you can help contact Marilyn Sturtevant.

**New Address:** Marceline “Tootie” Godke has moved to Betty’s Garden Nursing care facility, Kewanee. Marv Newman is rehabbing at the Allure of Geneseo nursing facility in Geneseo, IL.

**HELP WANTED:** Thank you for your help in decorating the church this past year. Now it is time for decoration removal, so we will be needing some volunteers’ time and talents to prepare the church for 2020. In the past, we’ve had a great turnout which makes the task much easier. We can usually accomplish the work in less than 2 hours. Please mark your calendars and come join us.



“It’s a lot more fun decorating than it is undecorating.”



**A Better Ending:** Rux Funeral Homes is sponsoring a free community educational seminar entitled “A Better Ending” on January 26 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at their funeral home in Kewanee. Four professionals will present information on topics of “What is Hospice?”, “When staying at home is not an option”, “Wills, Trusts, and POA’s”, and “Pre-planning a funeral.”

**Portals of Prayer:** January-April editions are now available in various sizes in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy for home or one to give to a friend.

**2019 Contribution Statements:** If you would like to have your 2019 Faith contribution statement emailed, please send your request and email address to [p.leezer@mchsi.com](mailto:p.leezer@mchsi.com)

**Voters’ Assembly** on January 5th business includes:

- Amend Constitution under Officers and Boards, Section 7.2.1 be changed from 6 to 4 Elder positions.
- Adopt 2020 Budget
- Elect 2020 Officers
- Officer’s 2019 reports of blessings and remaining challenges.
- Release of members no longer wishing to remain with Faith.
- Provide ideas and thoughts for congregational action in the new year.

**What do you need?** Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, contributes to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.