



Acts of Faith

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



July 2020

Volume 20 Issue 7

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COVID-19 SERVICES: Beginning July 5th Faith will return to one Sunday morning worship service at 9:00 AM. We will continue to follow the spirit of state and CDC guidelines for worship gatherings, especially pertaining to social separation. Every other pew row has been taped off to provide a partition, but both sides of the aisle can be used. When entering please pick up a weekly worship bulletin and a printed copy of the Spoken Divine Service Liturgy. Both handouts should be taken home and the Liturgy returned for you to use at the next week's service. To avoid cross-contamination hymnals will not be used. Bible readings and hymns will be printed in the bulletin. Process directly into the Nave and be seated. Offerings may be placed in the plate at the rear of the Nave when entering or exiting. Attendance will be taken by others for record keeping in the event someone at the service becomes ill later and contact tracing is necessary.

We request that anyone wishing to attend our service be free from fever or other illness symptoms, and others in your household as well. If not, please remain at home. We recommend wearing a mask when arriving for, during, and departing from worship if you are able and comfortable doing so. Masks and gloves are available in the Narthex area.

Practice safe-distancing at all times (6 to 10 feet from those not in your family). Please refrain from gathering or offering handshakes and hugs. Hand sanitizer is available for use while in the building. Communion will be served single file beginning with those on the Northside of the aisle then on the Southside, front to back. Remember to maintain your social distance during this ceremony.

For those with health concerns or are at high risk, Pastor Weber is willing to make home visits to provide prayers and the Lord's Supper. Nursing home visits are still prohibited.

Safety of our worshipers is a paramount consideration. If you have suggestions for improvement, or safety concerns, please relay them to an Elder or Pastor.

Thank you for your corporation and understanding during this pandemic.

Times they are a changing: Ezra 3 details the laying of the foundation for rebuilding the Temple of God after the Israelites had returned to Jerusalem from their captivity in Babylon. In verse 13 we read there was weeping from the old, and shouts of joy from the younger workers when the foundation was completed. For some it was a painful memory of what had been taken away, but for others it was a sign of things being restored again.

So like the children of Israel returning from the Babylonian Exile, we are experiencing both joy and sorrow. Joy that we are coming all together once again to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Sorrow that we will not be unrestricted in the sanctuary nor lifting our voices with songs of praise. We struggle with and live in fear with all that is happening in our land. If our hope was based in the format of our worship service or in the unrestricted loudness of our voices, things would be bleak indeed. But, our hope is in the Lord Jesus Christ who died and rose again. He brought redemption with His death on the cross and salvation with His resurrection three days later. Baptized in Him, we share in His death, and will someday share in His eternal life. He demonstrated God will redeem and bless even our most grief filled, change filled, or uncertainty filled times. Our trust is in the Lord.

We are going to need to adjust a little. There is joy at gathering and sadness about the way things are different. Thankfully, no matter how many adjustments we need to make, nothing, not even the corona virus, can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Worship Schedule
9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service

July's Calendar

July 04	Independence Day Observance
July 05	5th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion
July 06	LifeLight 1:00 PM
July 09	WOF Mtg. 10:00AM Program 1:00PM
July 12	6th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion
July 13	LifeLight 1:00 PM
July 19	7th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion
July 20	LifeLight 1:00 PM
July 21	Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM
July 26	8th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion
July 27	LifeLight 1:00 PM

July Voter's Assembly has been postponed and will be rescheduled later.

Altar Guild Schedule

July 05	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
July 12	Mary Hahn	Green
July 19	Leah Weber	Green
July 26	Kari Tavares	Green

Elders List:

Wayne Becker:	309-853-8783
Kevin Hull:	309-852-0801
Ron Larson:	309-853-5111
Ted Sturtevant:	309-853-8203

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, please notify Pastor Weber via e-mail or phone.

REMEMBER: Please contact the office and inform us of any changes of name, address, marital status, e-mail, phone, and cell phone. E-mail addresses are most important in these changing times to communicate with each other.

Streaming a Service: If you cannot gather together in our sanctuary, you can still view church services and hear God's Word. You can view the Concordia Lutheran-Geneseo service on Facebook page www.facebook.com/geneseolutheranchuch (you don't need a Facebook account to view them), or through their church website www.geneseolutheranchuch.com, under the "teaching" then "video" tabs. Sunday worship begins at 8:30 am, and Rev. Mueller has daily devotions on Facebook as well.

Those for Whom We Pray: Please include the following in your thoughts and daily prayers.

Our Faith family: Allison Leezer, 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, Ron Pettit, Kent West, Evelyn Weber, Alan Kraklow, 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.

Our World: That Lord of all will bring healing to those who are sick, comfort to those who mourn, care for those who tend and care for the ill, and bring an end to the spread of this virus.



Portals of Prayer: Issues for July-September are available in the Narthex with different print sizes.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1	Jonathan Estes
July 3	Madeline Breedlove
July 11	Kimberly Tudder
July 21	Tiffany Carpenter
July 22	Janet Estes
July 25	William Croegaert
July 27	Julie Carpenter
July 29	Sara Nimrick

Baptism Dates

Madeline Breedlove	7/30
Glen Godke	7/14
Vanda Hallock	7/13
Kathy Peed	7/22
Addison Talbot	7/14

Wedding Anniversaries

July 5	Glen & Betty Godke
July 24	Mark & Pamela Helmkamp
July 27	Mike & Paula Leezer

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1).

Women of Faith: The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, **July 09**, at 10:00AM. Cheryl Snyder will be hostess and lead a devotion. At 1:00 PM a program by Bree Kirsch on *Butterflies* is planned and anyone interested is invited to attend.

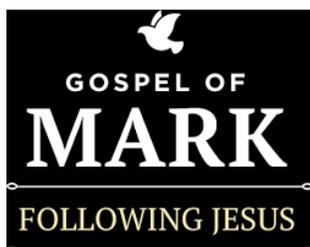
On July 5th you have the opportunity to support the LWML Mission Grant, “Touching the Living Word — Lutheran Braille Workers.” Braille is a formal written language for the blind where raised symbols are used to represent letters and words. Since 1943, Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) have been assembling braille Bibles and other Christian materials. In its 76-year history, LBW has produced and distributed, free of charge, over 14 million volumes of braille, large print, and audio materials. Many volunteers help produce the printed materials using zinc plates, braille presses, specialized paper, covers, and spiral bindings. Women of Faith thank you for your support of the Mission Grants.



Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

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

LifeLight Study: A study on Baptism is going on this summer. Weekly sessions meet at 1:00 PM on Mondays.



On August 8 the Lay Bible Institute will present an online Bible Study of the Gospel of Mark. The workshop goes from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM online, and is led by Dr. David Lewis, asst. professor of Exegetical Theology. Participants will explore what the Gospel teaches about Christian discipleship and what this means for our lives today. It is suggested that two or three persons gather for viewing as there is a \$20 a registration fee. Registration is open until July 18th. at ce@csi.edu or 314-505-7286.

Independence Day: Did God create man to be free? God created man in His own image but, He also required mankind to be His people; that is to follow His Word. When, tempted by Satan, Adam and Eve sought their freedom, they became slaves to sin. *Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. (John 8:34)* But Christ by His death of the cross has purchased our freedom, and by grace gives it to us. St. Paul says in Galatians 5:13 *“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”* The national freedom we celebrate this month should not be used as an excuse to sin or indulge our sinful desires. This we are observing in our nation, and the result is havoc, division, strife, and chaos which goes against God’s design intent for mankind. This holiday thank Jesus for our spiritual freedom and seek the Holy Spirit’s strength so that we resist our sinful nature and provide loving assistance to our neighbor.

Have a safe July 4th!

CID is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/cidlems to like and follow their page! Currently, they are sharing weekly videos to help cope with the feelings of grief during this pandemic, as well as sharing a variety of exciting things from our District churches!

First Fruits: “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, “You know the commandments.” And the ruler replied, “All these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (Luke 18:18–22)

As we listen to this, one question is raised in our minds: Is Jesus speaking to us also or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor? As good Lutherans, we answer: No! But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor?

The simplest explanation is this: If we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, everything we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't mean it isn't to be used for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family, and society. We are members of all three of these by birth.

- We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from either our birth into the church or the birth of others by Baptism into it.
- We are born into a family, and our duties to others stem from either our birth into that family or the birth of others into our family.
- We are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are is to be pressed into service for the church, the family, and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and our duties toward them would falter.

So consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to support and help those in society. You provide food, clothing, and shelter for the members of your family. You save for college for your children.

But the one station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits – the best from off the top – even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought and intent. It means that you sit down and make a plan for what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems there are other more immediate and pressing things.

This is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time while giving is low due to high unemployment or restrictions on meeting in church to give. If we love God, His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace we receive at church and only at church, then we will support the church just as we love our country and our family.

For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious and giving God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son into death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What is more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of the church, the family, and society, are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three by birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be ignored or even an afterthought. The church is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation by Word and Sacrament for eternal life. *LCMS Stewardship July 2020*