



# Acts of Faith

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



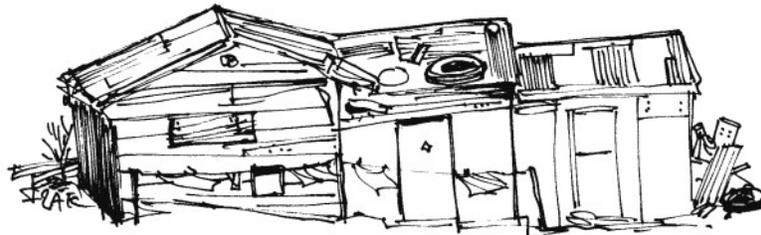
November 2009

Volume 9, Issue 11

## The Hopes of the Poor Shall Not Perish

*“I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.” (Psalm 9:1,18)*

There are many holidays which we may take for granted; such as Memorial Day, 4th of July, Columbus Day, Veterans’ Day, Presidents’ Day; and, in Illinois, Casmier Pulaski Day. Another holiday which we may tend to take for granted is Thanksgiving Day. We may take these holidays for granted; yet, *none* of them are celebrated in the rest of the world. Certainly, other countries have their distinct groups of holidays, but *Thanksgiving Day* is one of those holidays which is distinctly American.



The first Thanksgiving was certainly celebrated in very difficult circumstances. Many of the early American settlers had died from illness and starvation. Those who survived were living in primitive conditions. Their future was uncertain. Yet, they were moved to give thanks for what they *had*, rather than grumble about what they *didn’t* have.

We live in times which are difficult for many; yet, we’re blessed in material ways far beyond what the Pilgrims experienced. This was brought especially to mind during my recent trip to South Africa. Americans tend to link that country with diamond and gold mining; and there are certainly some prosperous parts of the county. Yet, there also exists high rates of crime, unemployment, AIDS; and vast poverty-stricken regions beyond what

most Americans can imagine.

In terms of crime, it’s the rule rather than the exception for houses in South Africa to have bars on their windows and doors; and, where possible, to have a wall surrounding the house—a wall commonly topped with barbed wire or electrified wire.

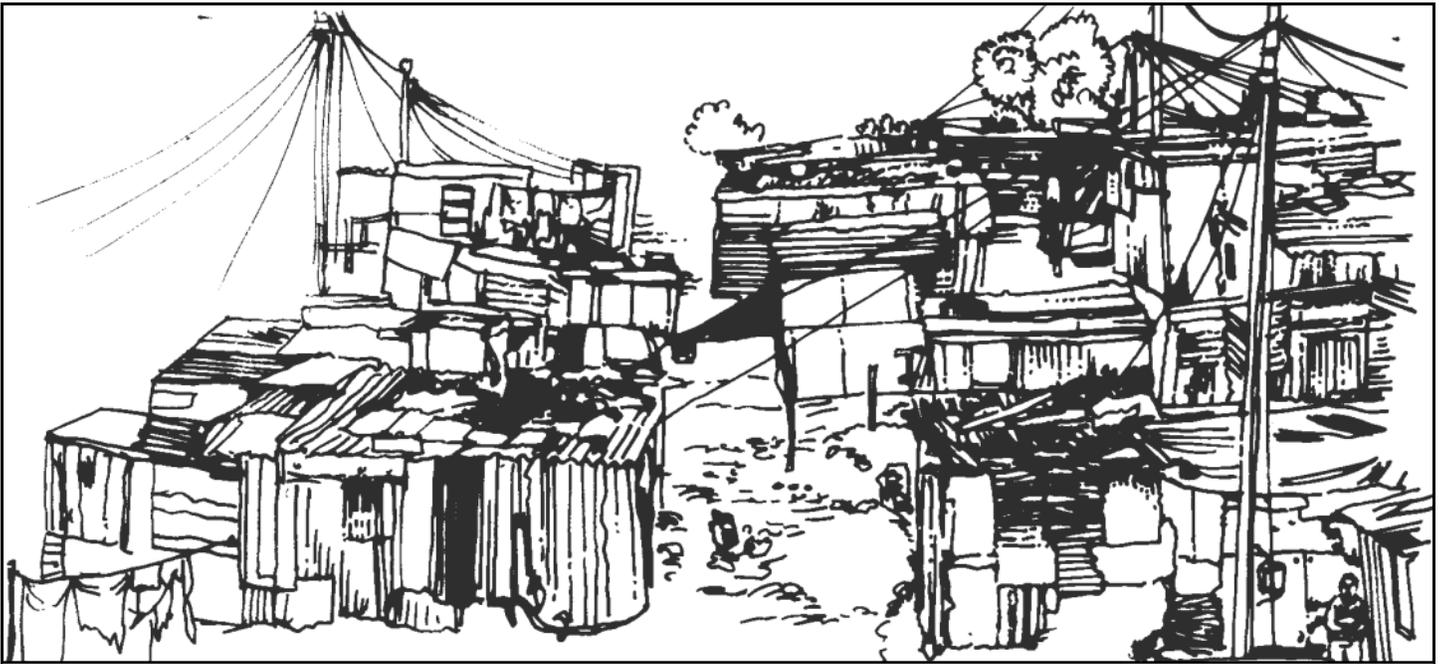
South Africa has the second-highest AIDS rate on the continent of Africa. Whereas the hospice services in the U.S. deal primarily with the victims of illnesses such as cancer and Alzheimer’s disease; the hospices in South Africa deal mostly with AIDS patients, and seek to help the young orphans of those hospice patients who die from AIDS.

Regarding poverty, millions of people in South Africa live in what is euphemistically called “Informal Housing,” (shown on the sketches on this page and the next)—tightly packed settlements of crudely-built shacks; each about half the size of one of our single-car garages (but much less sturdy or weather-tight).

Because of demands from the people living in these “Informal Housing” settlements, the government has provided outhouses, and some electrical access in some of these locations. The people living there do menial work, but some obtain enough money to have a television, and a few even have a satellite dish perched on top of the corrugated sheet metal roof of their cramped and dirty shack. Thus, through television, they can glimpse what life is like in the United States, (or at least, how life is *portrayed* in the United States).

*Your* life or lifestyle may not match that of what’s

*(Continued on page 2)*



(Continued from page 1)

commonly portrayed on television; but even if you've undergone severe economic distress, your way of life doesn't match the life or lifestyle of those living among the crime, AIDS, and crushing poverty in places like South Africa.

There are many reasons for crime, disease, and poverty in South Africa, here, and around the world; but the fundamental reason is sin—our sin, and the sin of all those who have lived before us. God didn't create a world which included crime, disease, and poverty; but He's granted us material blessings in spite of, and in the midst of, these things. Furthermore, God has provided the Means of Grace whereby we can be *strengthened* while living with these problems, and eternally *delivered* from them.

Even considering any current declines in your economic welfare or personal health; you still have much to be thankful for. Our celebration of Thanksgiving started out as being thankful to God for, essentially, conditions which were even worse than those living in the "Informal Housing" which many in the world experience.

Today, we have much more in material blessings than the Pilgrims had, or what most of the rest of the world has. Yet, we still have the temptation to focus on what we *don't* have, rather than on what we *do* have. Certainly, we have genuine needs, and there is genuine poverty. Yet, like the Psalmist, we can say, "*I will give thanks to the LORD with my*

*whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. For the needy shall not always be forgotten, and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever."*

David was looking ahead to the coming of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. St. Paul reminds us, "*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich*" (2 Cor. 8:9)

Due to the effects of sin in this world, "*The poor will always be among us*" (Mark 14:7); and we ourselves might become poverty-stricken.

Yet, at Thanksgiving, and year-round, we should give thanks for whatever material blessings we have; share with those who have even less; and especially give thanks for the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord left the riches of His heavenly throne, took upon Himself poverty-stricken flesh and blood, that thereby He might *also* take all of our sins upon Himself on the cross so that we might have the *riches* of eternal life in heaven.

Our needs have *not* been forgotten, and we shall *not* perish forever, but we shall forever give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart.

Blessings,

*Pastor Fischer*

## November's Calendar

- Nov. 01 All Saints' Day
- Nov. 02 Education Committee, 7:00 PM
- Nov. 04 Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM
- Nov. 05 Evangelism Committee, 6:30 PM.
- Nov. 07 Great Commission Convocation,  
Bloomington, 9:00 AM
- Nov. 08 **23rd Sunday after Pentecost**  
"The Passion of the Christ" Movie,  
6:30 pm
- Nov. 09 Circuit Pastors' Mtg., Moline, 9 AM  
Faith serves at Monday "Free Meal,"  
4:00-6:30 PM
- Nov. 10 Martin Luther's Birthday (1483)  
P.O.M. Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Nov. 11 Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM
- Nov. 15 **24th Sunday after Pentecost**  
"The Passion of the Christ" Movie,  
6:30 pm
- Nov. 17 Women of Faith, 1:00 PM
- Nov. 18 Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM
- Nov. 19 Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM  
Church Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
- Nov. 22 **Last Sunday of the Church Year**
- Nov. 25 **Thanksgiving Eve Worship, 7 PM**
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 29 **1st Sunday in Advent**

### Worship Banners



Thank you to Cheryl and Bart Snyder, of Die-Hard Graphics, for making and donating our new worship banners!

There are separate banners which highlight each of our regular Lutheran Service Book worship services, in addition to banners for the various seasons of the Church Year.

Thank you also to Bob Snyder, who has taken on the responsibility of putting up the banners for the subsequent week following our Wednesday evening worship services.

### Lutheran Women in Mission

### Women of Faith

Women of Faith will meet Tuesday, Nov. 11th, 1 PM, in the church Fellowship Hall.

The program will be a book report by Donna Becker, on the book, "Miles to Go Before I Sleep: A Survivor's Story of Life After a Terrorist Hijacking," by Jackie Nink Pflug.

The author was among five passengers singled out for execution by the hijackers of EgyptAir Flight 648 on Nov. 24, 1985. Shot in the head by her captors, the 30-year-old teacher was left for dead on the airport tarmac. As a result of this head injury, Jackie continues to face challenges with emotional, physical, and learning disabilities. She has used her nine years expertise in Special Education to help train and rehabilitate herself.

All women of the congregation are invited to attend to hear this inspirational story. The meeting hostess and devotional leader will be Cheryl Snyder.

### Thanksgiving Eve Worship



Thanksgiving Eve Worship will be held Wednesday, Nov. 25th, 7 PM. "Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress."

(from Psalm 107)



### New Contact Information

Jeri Erickson's new phone number is: 309-525-5822.

Ted & Marilyn Sturtevant's new E-mail address is: trmjs56@verizon.net

We appreciate all those who keep the church office notified of any changes to their mailing address, phone number, or E-mail address.



*An Invitation and  
Encouragement to Attend a  
Viewing of*

THE  
PASSION  
OF THE CHRIST

At a recent Church Council meeting, a motion was passed to reach out to every Confirmed member of our congregation. As St. Paul writes, *“Therefore encourage one another, and build each other up”* (1 Thess. 5:11). It is our prayerful hope that these contacts will strengthen and encourage our family of believers at Faith Lutheran Church.

On either Sunday, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM; or Sunday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM, you are invited and encouraged to come to our Fellowship Hall and view the movie, *“The Passion of the Christ.”*

This viewing will be followed by a brief discussion. A handout, *“Salvation Assured!—or Salvation at Risk?”* will be given to those attending to take home for a self-evaluation.

Jesus, in His *“Sermon on the Mount,”* was speaking to His followers, and warning of the temptations to fall away from faith: *“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”*

Matthew 7:13-14

One Lutheran theologian said regarding these verses:

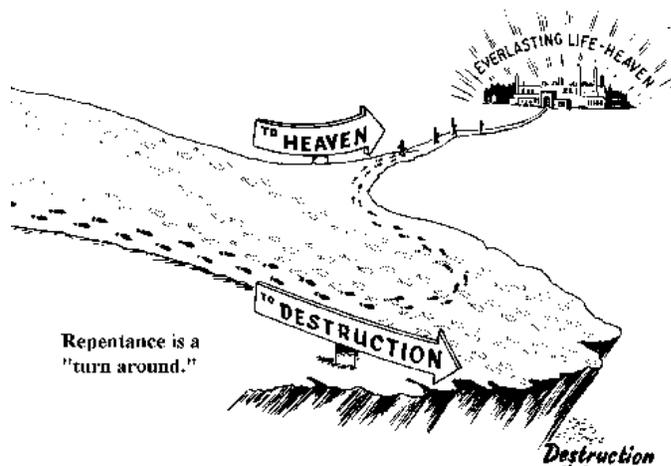
*“The one way is indeed a common road, no one is excluded from it. But it is narrow, with no room for frivolous liberties on either side. And it finally leads through a strait and narrow gate, which has nothing to commend it outwardly. Only comparatively few find this way. It is so untrodden that it may easily be missed.*

On the other hand there is a wide, broad, spacious, roomy road, with many factors that invite, that lead forward on that road. And at its end is a wide, welcoming gate. But this way and this gate, with all the qualities that commend them, with all

the invitation to indulge in the free, unfettered life of the world, leads to destruction; its end is everlasting condemnation.

But the other way leads to life, to the true life, to the only life worth living, to the life everlasting. Enter in at this gate, is His loving call. Conquer, in His strength, all weakness of the flesh. Overcome through Him all assaults of the world and Satan, no matter in what guise they may appear. The end is worth a thousand battles”

Rev. Paul Kretzmann  
Commentary on the New Testament, Vol. 1



Rev. Kretzmann speaks about *“loving call of Jesus.”* Nowhere was Jesus’ love more profoundly expressed than upon the cross. *“The Passion of the Christ”* vividly portrays that loving self-sacrifice; and viewing it for the first time, or seeing it again, will be a great blessing to you.

For those unable to attend the movie viewing at church, copies of the movie will be made available to them for their private viewing at home, and they too will be given the self-evaluation handout.

The invitation to the movie isn’t limited to only *our* congregation members, but you’re encouraged to invite others to also come and attend.

Child care will be available during the showings of the movie; and refreshments will be served.

We’re confident that all who view this movie will be enlightened, strengthened, and **encouraged** in their faith in Jesus Christ, and in their assurance of salvation through Him.

## ***In the History of Our Church, God's People are Gift-Givers***

On November 1st, Christians around the world join in celebrating All Saints Day. Among the saints in heaven are our loved ones who have died in the faith and now share in the joys of heaven. The recommended Epistle reading for All Saints Day comes from Revelation 7 and includes these words: *"These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes"* (Rev. 7:14-17).

This beautiful picture of the saints before the throne brings us comfort as we remember our Christian loved ones who have passed before us, and strengthens our hope in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. On the last Thursday of November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day; which provides us with the opportunity to pause and thank our God for his mercy which endures forever, and his providing of so many spiritual and physical blessings day after day.

It's very fitting to remember the example, instruction and encouragement of those saints who have been

special blessings to us. Many of us learned about the grace of God in Jesus Christ our Savior at the knees of Christian parents. Many of us have also learned from them what it's like to live as God's children who receive his gifts with thanksgiving. We thank God for those who have been teachers and examples of good stewardship. It's so true that only the Holy Spirit can change us from selfish, self-centered sinners into faithful stewards of all that God has given to us. But, the example of good stewardship that we learned from our parents and other important people in our lives is also a great blessing.

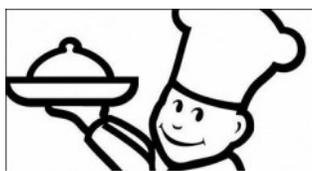


One day we will join the saints in heaven, but until then; God empowers us to be teachers, models and examples of good stewardship for our children and other people who are special to us.

One of our common table prayers contains these words: *"Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest and may these gifts to us be blessed."* The godly ladies who

are part of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) have added these great stewardship thoughts to this prayer: *"And may there be a goodly share on every table everywhere, and may we help to put it there."*

May God bless us as his stewards so that our management of all of life and life's resources (money, time, talents, relationships, etc.) honors him, blesses our neighbors, and serves as an example and encouragement to those around us.



### ***Monday Free Meal***

Every Monday, the Kewanee Ministerial Association and the area congregations offer a free meal from 5-6 PM.

The "Monday Free Meals" are served at the Kewanee Senior Citizen Center, and are open to everyone in the community.

On Monday, Nov. 9th, the members of Faith Lutheran Church will be preparing and serving the meal. Volunteers are needed for one-hour time periods from 4:30-6:30 PM. If you can assist, please contact Donna Becker or Nancy Tudder.

*Gratitude takes three forms: a feeling in the heart, an expression in words, and giving in return.*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Casidy Tavares	11/03
Mallery Tudder	11/13
Linda Jacobs	11/16
Spencer Clapper	11/18
Maggie Gillespie	11/20
Micah Tavares	11/23
Lorie Elgin	11/26
Kylee Conlin	11/30
Stephanie Hagaman	11/30



## Anniversaries

Lois & Marvin Novotny	11/20
Janet & Paul Estes	11/22
DeeAnn & Lawrence Krahn	11/24

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM, Sunday  
Adult Bible Class, High School Bible Class,  
Confirmation Class & Sunday School, 10:30 A.M.

7:00 PM, Wednesday

Rev. Robert Fischer, Pastor

309-852-2787 (Church Phone)

309-714-1181 (Cell Phone)

309-853-5394 (Home Phone)

E-mail: [pastor@faithkewanee.org](mailto:pastor@faithkewanee.org)

Web Site: [www.faitkewanee.org](http://www.faitkewanee.org)

# Faith Lutheran Church

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Address Correction Requested

*"Let us be thankful, and so  
worship God," Hebrews 12:28*

November 2009 Newsletter