



Acts of Faith

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



September 2009

Volume 9, Issue 9

Why Do God's Temples Die?

We've seen or read about church buildings being severely damaged or destroyed by tornados, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes—or, in the case earlier this year with St. John's, rural Geneseo—by an electrical fire. And, just during a couple of weeks this August, church buildings throughout the Midwest were damaged by tornados and high winds; and church buildings in Texas, Arkansas, and Florida were destroyed by fire.

A Christian church building is properly called a "House of God," or even a "Temple of God." The psalmist David wrote regarding the Temple in Jerusalem, "These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: How I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival" (Psalm 42:4). Yet, that Jerusalem Temple, that House of God, was repeatedly desecrated and destroyed.



When we look to *that* Temple, and to the more *recent* gathering places of God's people; how is it that God would allow *any* of His "Houses" or "Temples" to be destroyed? How could God allow the loss of the money and effort that congregation members have invested in that building for His glory? How could God allow the grief, confusion and fear; and the scrambling for a temporary place to worship, following the loss of a Christian house of worship?

When we think about it even more, we might ask why God allows His houses, His temples, to have need of major or minor repairs, painting, re-roofing; or even routine dusting, polishing and vacuuming.

It's *God's* House, after all; and the Almighty God certainly has the power to prevent dust from accumulating, paint from peeling, roof shingles from deteriorating; and-so-on. He should certainly also have the power to prevent His houses from being damaged or destroyed by tornados, fires, or hurricanes. Shouldn't He be watching over and caring for His houses—His temples—better than that?

Well, as long as we're thinking about God's houses—His temples—made of wood, brick, and stone; let's think about His houses, His temples, made of flesh, blood, and bone. St. Paul writes, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). So, our earthly bodies are also houses—temples—of God; yet, these flesh and blood houses of God need regular cleaning, the domes of some of these houses need polishing; and all these houses suffer from sickness, accidents, disease; and eventually, death. How can God allow that to happen to His houses—our bodies?

All the earthly Houses of God—be they made of wood, brick, stone; or flesh, blood, bone; suffer from the corruption of sin caused by Adam and Eve in the beginning; and by you and I today. Yes, God *dwells* in these houses as long as they exist here on earth; but they can't be His *permanent* dwelling place. All of the *problems* these earthly houses suffer as a result of being in this fallen world are a reminder that this world *isn't* our permanent home.

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As we read above from 1st Corinthians, “*You are not your own, for you were bought with a price.*” Jesus bought *us*, and bought our way *out* of this corrupted, dying world with the sacrifice of his *perfect* flesh and blood on the cross for our sins. He rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven with a glorified body; thus assuring that *we too* will have glorious, eternal, problem-free bodies in heaven.

St. Paul reminds us of this, saying “*For we know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*” (2 Cor. 5:1).

When the “tent” of a Christian loved-one—that temporary, flesh and blood, temple of God here on earth—dies; we usually have an opportunity to visit what’s left of that earthly tent at a funeral home, or in the church, prior to the funeral. The unoccupied “tent” of our loved-one doesn’t *look* exactly like, or *feel* exactly like it did when it was filled by God’s Spirit. But, it’s comforting still to touch what remains, to think about the joys of *past* which we shared, and to look forward to the *eternal joys* we’ll share again in heaven.

When an earthly temple of God made of wood, brick, or stone “dies” (from storm, fire, or for whatever reason), it’s comforting to see and to touch what remains; and remember the joys we had worshipping, praising, and serving God in that building; and to look forward to the *eternal* joys of God’s presence and love in heaven.

What will the heavenly Temple be like? St. John was given a glimpse into heaven, and wrote, “*I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb*” (Rev. 21:22). Although we’re *saddened* by the loss of an earthly “Temple of God”—and especially by the loss of a *flesh and blood* “Temple of God”—we shouldn’t excessively mourn, because the *true* and *eternal* Temple is with us always—the Lord God Almighty, and the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

Pastor Fischer

Pastor & Vary Travelling to South Africa

Pastor Fischer, Vary; and their older daughter, Karen, will be traveling to South Africa Sept. 21st to attend the wedding reception of their younger daughter, Julie.



Julie was married in March to Willem Avenant. Julie and Willem live in Cape Town, South Africa; where Julie works as a Civil Engineer, and Willem owns an arborist (tree care) business.

Pastor and Vary will be gone through Oct. 4th. Rev. Wegener will be leading the worship services, and making any sick calls, during Pastor Fischer’s absence. Rev. Wegener may be contacted at 853-9953 or 525-1875.



Women of Faith

“Caring for a Loved-One with Mental Illness”

Women of Faith will meet at church on Tuesday, Sept. 15th, 10:00 AM. The Hostess will be Mary Duncan.

The study will be led by Pastor Fischer. He will present a video and Bible Study regarding, “Caring for a Loved-One with Mental Illness”

A “Hobo Lunch” will be served at noon. Please bring a can of soup.

The Business Meeting will be at 1:00 pm.

All members of the congregation are invited to attend Pastor Fischer’s presentation.

September's Calendar

- Sept. 1 Board of Education, 7 PM
- Sept. 2 Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Sept. 3 Evangelism Committee, 6:30 PM
- Sept. 5 Hog Days Evangelism Booth, 12 - 7.
- Sept. 6 14th Sunday after Pentecost**
Hog Days Evangelism Booth, 11- 7.
- Sept. 8 Rock Island Circuit Pastors' Mtg.,
Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, 9 AM
- Sept. 9 Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Sept. 13 15th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Sept. 15 Women of Faith, 10 AM
P.O.M. Meeting, 6:30 PM
- Sept. 16 Midweek Worship, 7 PM
- Sept. 17 Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM
Church Council, 7:30 PM
- Sept. 20 16th Sunday after Pentecost**
Rock Island Circuit Forum, 2 PM
Weiner Roast, (time to be announced)
- Sept. 21- Pastor Fischer in South Africa.
- Oct. 4
- Sept. 22 LWML Fall Rally, St. John's,
East Moline, 9:00 AM
- Sept. 23 Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM
- Sept. 27 17th Sunday after Pentecost**
- Sept. 30 Midweek Worship, 7:00 PM

College Addresses?



Please give Nancy Tudder the current college address of any college student in your family so that we can add him/her to the newsletter mailing list.. College students very much need the spiritual information in the newsletters, and need a connection to the congregational life as well.



Kewanee Food Pantry

One of the signs of the economic slow-down is the fact that our local Food Pantry has been serving record numbers of people in the last couple of months. These needs aren't expected to decrease any time soon, so please remember to bring along to church your donations of canned goods, or other non-perishable food items, for the Kewanee Food Pantry. Thanks much for your help!



From our Adopted Seminarian— George Ruwisch

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Looking back on my first year of study, and looking forward to next year and my vicarage, I can hardly contain my excitement! It's been a delight to study at CTS. The faculty is fantastic, the courses are challenging, and the curriculum is objective-oriented; that is, every part of one's study is focused upon serving Christ and His Church. Every theological assertion posited, every Greek or Hebrew verb we parse, and of course our Field Education, are oriented toward the cross; methodically preparing us to one day enter the LCMS clergy.

None of that, however, would be possible without the continued prayers, kindness, and financial provisions of Faith Lutheran Church. What a blessing it has been to have an adopting congregation so generous and encouraging! You have been by my side through all-night study sessions at Steak n' Shake, Dogmatics II exams with the infamous Dr. David Scaer, and during my hour-long drive to my Field Work congregation in Ohio each Sunday. Summer Hebrew has been very tough, and I cannot express how grateful I am for your continued support, both while I am at seminary, and while I am at home. I know that I have been in your prayers as you have been in mine. As I prepare to enter my second year of Seminary, it brings me great comfort to know that my family at Faith is behind me every step of the way.

In Christ,
Sem. George Ruwisch



Our Women of Faith organization makes regular contributions to help support Seminarian Ruwisch. If you would like to also help with this support, please contact Vary Fischer for information on how to do so.

Statement of the President of the LCMS in Response to the ELCA's Approval of Homosexual Clergy

The two largest Lutheran church bodies in the United States are the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) with 4.8 million members and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) with 2.4 million members.

On Friday, Aug. 21, the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to open the ministry of the ELCA to gay and lesbian pastors and other professional workers living in “committed relationships.” In an earlier action, the assembly approved a resolution that commits the ELCA “to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships.”

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has repeatedly affirmed as its own position the historical understanding of the Christian church that the Bible condemns homosexual behavior as “intrinsically sinful.” It is therefore contrary to the will of the Creator and constitutes sin against the commandments of God (Lev. 18:22, 24,20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-20; 1 Tim 1:9-10; and Rom. 1:26, 27).

Addressing the ELCA assembly on Saturday, Aug. 22, I responded to their aforementioned actions, stating: “The decisions by this assembly to grant non-celibate homosexual ministers the privilege of serving as rostered leaders in the ELCA and the affirmation of same-gender unions as pleasing to God will undoubtedly cause additional stress and disharmony within the ELCA. It will also negatively affect the relationships between our two church bodies. The current division between our churches threatens to become a chasm. This grieves my heart and the hearts of all in the ELCA, the LCMS, and other Christian church bodies throughout the world who do not see these decisions as compatible with the Word of God, or in agreement with the consensus of 2,000 years of Christian theological

affirmation regarding what Scripture teaches about human sexuality. Simply stated, this matter is fundamentally related to significant differences in how we [our two church bodies] understand the authority of Holy Scripture and the interpretation of God’s revealed and infallible Word.”

Doctrinal decisions adopted already in 2001 led the LCMS, in sincere humility and love, to declare that we could no longer consider the ELCA “to be an orthodox Lutheran church body” (2001 Res 3-21A).

Sadly, the decisions of this past week to ignore biblical teaching on human sexuality have reinforced that conclusion. We respect the desire to follow conscience in moral decision making, but conscience may not overrule the Word of God.



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We recognize that many brothers and sisters within the ELCA, both clergy and lay, are committed to remaining faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, are committed to the authority of Holy Scripture, and strongly oppose these actions. To them we offer our assurance of loving encouragement together with our willingness to provide appropriate support in their efforts to remain faithful to the Word of God and the historic

teachings of the Lutheran church and all other Christian churches for the past 2,000 years.

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
August 24, 2009

“Transforming lives through Christ’s love ... in time ... for eternity ...” John 3:16-17

The ELCA is represented in Kewanee by Zion Lutheran Church and The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

In Galva, it is represented by The Lutheran Church of the Messiah.



Steve Becker to Help Build Houses in El Salvador



Congregation member and Thrivent Representative, Steve Becker, is traveling to El Salvador on October 16. He will help build a community of homes side-by-side with families in need thanks to a \$125 million alliance between Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International.

Steve was selected to represent his colleagues from the organization’s St. Louis Heartland region of Thrivent Financial. He was nominated for this team because of his sales performance, passion for volunteering with members, and drive to help people become financially secure.

This team of 28 service-minded Thrivent Financial representatives from regions across the United States will spend Oct. 16-25 in El Salvador. They will build both goodwill and homes working with “Habitat for Humanity El Salvador” to construct a community of homes with local Central American families. The new community, called “*Villa Esperanza*,” which means “Hope Village” in English; will soon have up to 75 Salvadoran families living in new decent, affordable homes. Thrivent Financial committed \$1.3 million to Habitat El Salvador to make “*Villa Esperanza*” a reality. This program is one example of how Thrivent Financial and its members work together to help others.

Steve Becker is a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Financial Consultant, FIC, LUTCF serving Lutherans and their family members in Kewanee, Princeton, and the Quad Cities. You may contact him at: 309-852-0708, or steve.becker@thrivent.com

Biblical Stewardship—Firstfruits, Proportionate, and Joyful Giving

“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...” (1 Cor. 16:2)

Percentage Giving (Proportionate Giving—Expressed in \$ commitment per week)

Gross Annual Income	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10% Tithe	11%	12%
20,000	\$3.85	\$7.70	\$11.54	\$15.38	\$19.23	\$23.02	\$26.92	\$30.76	\$34.61	\$38.46	\$42.31	\$46.04
30,000	\$5.76	\$11.52	\$17.28	\$23.04	\$28.80	\$34.56	\$40.32	\$46.08	\$51.84	\$57.60	\$63.36	\$69.12
40,000	\$7.69	\$15.38	\$23.07	\$30.76	\$38.45	\$46.14	\$53.83	\$61.52	\$69.21	\$76.90	\$84.59	\$92.28
50,000	\$9.61	\$19.22	\$28.83	\$38.44	\$48.05	\$57.66	\$67.27	\$76.88	\$84.49	\$96.10	\$105.70	\$115.30
60,000	\$11.50	\$23.04	\$34.56	\$46.08	\$57.60	\$69.12	\$80.64	\$92.16	\$103.70	\$115.20	\$126.70	\$138.20
80,000	\$15.38	\$30.76	\$46.14	\$61.52	\$76.90	\$92.28	\$107.60	\$123.00	\$138.40	\$153.80	\$169.20	\$184.60
100,000	\$19.22	\$38.44	\$57.66	\$76.88	\$96.10	\$115.20	\$134.40	\$153.60	\$168.90	\$192.20	\$211.40	\$230.60

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Joshua Carpenter	9/01
Robert Yount	9/08
Bradley Cook	9/14
LaJean Breedlove	9/17
Doris Hepner	9/17
Donna Becker	9/18
Rachael Damm	9/18
Christian Clapper	9/21
Eleanor Graba	9/21
Jacob Grabbe	9/21
Mary Duncan	9/22
Justin Carper	9/24
Addyson Hicks	9/26
Sheri Terry	9/26
Jay Hagaman	9/28

Anniversary

Deborah & Jim Woods	9/01
Judy & Donald Bridgewater	9/13
Bonnie & Jim Nuding	9/18
Marilyn & Ted Sturtevant	9/18

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM, Sunday
Adult Bible Class, Sunday School,
Confirmation Class, 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

Web Site: www.faithkewanee.org

Faith Lutheran Church

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Address Correction Requested

*"Unless the Lord builds the house, its
builders labor in vain." Psalm 127:1*

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