



# Acts of Faith

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



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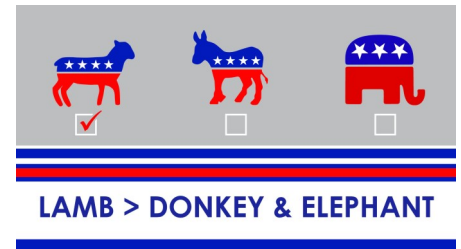
**Donkey, Elephant, or Lamb:** August means higher temperatures outside. This being an election year has the political races and rhetoric heating up as well. For America, the political battle is getting ready to crest in intensity as we prepare to select for our next President in November. The two candidates bring out the opposite views and fuel the battle ground in media outlets as they encourage us to choose one side and badger the other. There is a serious lack of respectful dialogue between people with different views, different opinions, and different ways of life. The whole country seems to be divided into two camps: the liberal vs. the conservative, Democrats vs. Republicans, the donkey or the elephant. The consequence of the partisan politics is clear: people are ready to put loyalty to party above humanity, above morality, above common good, above justice and mercy, above human decency and dignity.

How easy it is to get sucked into the divisions that exist around us and within us. How easy it is to get sucked in, like a black hole, to the animosity and anger that surrounds us. How easy it is to get sucked into the false narratives that are loudly proclaimed in news media and social media. How easy it is to get sucked into the scapegoating and finger pointing of others. How easy it is to get sucked into the false narratives of the donkey and the elephant. The false hope that so many pin on our partisan political institutions and candidates isn't going to magically bring us to some kind of utopian national salvation.

As Christians, our identity isn't with them, it is with the Lamb; all that He stands for and is about. The Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, would have us connecting to others based on His principles instead of political ones.

*"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. 7:17*

The Lamb of God perched squarely, joyfully, sovereignly at the center of the Throne of thrones. Not a Donkey or Elephant—the symbols of mere humans doing mere American politics. But the Lamb of God reigning over all things for your glory, and working in all things for our good.



We need Jesus Christ. We cannot remove our sins, and be right with God. He fixed the mess for the world by His life, death, and resurrection. We need His spiritual blessings because He is the Living bread come down from heaven. *So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. John 6:53*

Following our Lord will never be the easy way. Difficulties and challenges are always around the corner. Temptation to join the world is greater each day. We must put away any hateful bitterness toward a particular person or cause. Jesus, our Lamb, is there to give us strength and courage to persevere in His peace. Jesus—the precious Lamb of God—is our Prince of Peace. Embody Christ's love through compassionate conversation and seek unity and reconciliation. Pray continually for each other, our leaders, and our nation.

*"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* Philippians 4:7 It is a peace that surpasses all the false gospel narratives that are shoved at us. A peace that surpasses the false identities that we are told we have to belong to. It is a peace that only comes through the Lamb. It frees us to be more fully who God intends us to be.

Our hope isn't in man. Our hope is in a Lamb, not a Donkey or Elephant. The Lamb who sits on His throne even now and will shepherd us eternally.

Worship Schedule  
9:00 am, Sunday Worship Service  
and 10:15 am Bible Study



Aug. 04 Marilyn Sturtevant (Green)  
Aug. 11 Kari Tavares (Green)  
Aug. 18 Leah Weber (Green)  
Aug. 25 Mary Hahn (Green)

### *Augusts Calendar*

**Aug 04 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
with Holy communion**

**Aug 11 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost  
with Holy communion**

Aug 15 WOF Mtg. 10:00 am at church  
Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM  
Church Council 7:00 PM

**Aug 18 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
with Holy communion**

**Aug 25 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
with Holy communion**

### Elders List:

Gary Hahn 309-854-2203  
Kevin Hull: 309-852-0801  
Ron Larson: 309-853-5111  
Ted Sturtevant: 309-853-8203

### USHER'S LIST

1st Sunday: Ted Sturtevant  
2nd Sunday: Nick Phillips  
3rd Sunday: Gary Hahn  
4th Sunday: Kevin Hull  
5th Sunday: Jim Cook

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

**Our Faith family:** Allison Leezer, Cari Bridgewater, Nancy Tudder, JoAnne Behnke, Peggy Faber, Nancy Gillespie, Bonnie and Jim Nuding, and Vanda Hallock.

**Friends:** Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, Art Rosencarter, 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:** Citizens of and those in Ukraine and Israel that peace may come to their land.



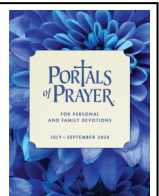
**Prayer Requests:** Have someone or something that you would like Pastor to include in either his personal prayers or in our public Prayer of the Church on Sunday morning, please fill out a prayer request, place in an envelope, and leave it in the office or hand it to Pastor.

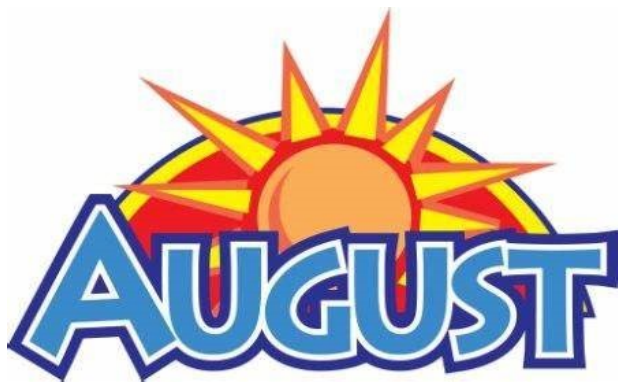


**Plea for Keys:** The supply of extra church keys has depleted. If you possess a door key and no longer require it, please return it to the church office. Thank you for your service to Faith.

**Reminder...** when admitted to a hospital, be sure to say you are a member of Faith Lutheran or have a family member or friend call the office or Pastor Weber. Otherwise, we may not be aware of your hospitalization. Thank you.

**Portals of Prayer:** July-September 2024 *Portals of Prayer* are available in the Narthex for your use. Did you know there is a Portals of Prayer App for your smart phone or tablet? Share a copy with a friend.





### Birthdays

- August 3 Randy Stockner
- August 6 Mark Tudder
- August 7 Andrew Peterson
- August 10 Layne Stapel
- August 12 Jemma Cade
- August 16 Laura Heinrich
- August 21 Jack Breedlove
- August 25 Erin Tavares

### Baptism Dates

- Oliver Blume 8/24
- Jack Breedlove 8/31
- Jonathon Estes 8/24
- Cora Tavares 8/24
- Emma Tavares 8/24
- Miles Tavares 8/24
- Elliot Tavares 8/24



### Wedding Anniversaries

- August 2 Joe & Sue Cervantez
- August 9 Jeffrey & Laura Heinrich
- August 10 Kari & Joe Tavares

**Women of Faith:** The Women of Faith will meet on August 15th at 10:00 AM. Nancy Tudder will be the hostess. Please bring a brown bag lunch. They will be making additional fleece blankets for the Paul's Friends organization, a cancer patient hope project. All the ladies in the congregation are welcome to join in this service project.

This month we focus on the Mission Grant, Care for Street Children of Western Kenya. Capstone Ministries helps reunite street boys with their families. Their staff provides ongoing support to these families by providing emotional and spiritual counseling to be responsible parents and to take care of their children. Your mites make a difference. Thank you for your support and prayers for this Mission Outreach.



LWML ladies are no longer collecting used postage stamps or used plastic prescription bottles. Thank you for the congregation's support in the past. Please recycle these items locally.

**Church Cleaning:** The congregation has no cleaning person. So, if anyone is willing to help dust, vacuum, and wipe down the bathrooms please contact Kari so a schedule of workers can be developed. Hopefully, this means a couple hours once a month if enough people volunteer.

**R.I. Circuit News:** Rev. Gary Wright, from Zion -Hampton, is serving as vacancy pastor at Holy Cross-Moline with the retirement of Rev. Karsten. We pray Holy Cross will receive a new shepherd soon to continue their ministry and spread the Gospel of Christ to this area.

The 160th Anniversary of Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church in Geneseo will be celebrated on August 25th! Divine service is at 10:00am with a potluck dinner at noon.



*A Dollar for*  
**Missions**

The current DFM project is more ambitious financially. It is to provide \$25,000 for furnace replacement at Immanuel Lutheran Student Center in Macomb, one block away from Western Illinois University. Every Sunday church services are held at 11:00 a.m. in the student center's Chapel of St. Timothy the Learner. Students attend, as well as members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, CID's partner in campus ministry in Macomb. Equipment replacement like this is important so the Gospel can continue to be proclaimed and students can go on being reached there for years into the future.

**Voters' Meeting Notes:** Pastor Weber opened with a prayer for peace in our land following the assignation attempt of Trump on Saturday.

Minutes from the January 21, 2024, meeting were read by Gary Hahn in the absence of the Secretary. A motion to accept the Secretary's Report was made by Kevin Hull and was seconded by Ted Sturtevant. Motion carried.

The first 6 months 2024 financial report by Sue Cervantez was shared. Income of \$48,286.03 and Expenses of \$43,563.94. Income included the Wayne Becker Memorial monies, and CEF rebate which were forwarded to CEF to reduce the mortgage principal. CEF Balance is \$123,830.41, and Memorial/Designated Fund Balance is \$17,202.74. A motion was made by Gary Hahn to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Kevin Hull. Motion carried.

Elder's reported that Otto Cervantez was baptized, Tinsley Newman and Olive Nimrick were confirmed, and Wayne Becker passed away during this period. A motion to accept the membership changes was made by Gary Hahn and second by Kevin Hull. Motion carried. As the result of our monthly caring cards, one member has returned to worshipping with us. Praise be to God.

Pastor Weber reported that Rev. Karsten, Holy Cross-Moline, and Rev. Eckhardt, St. Paul's-Kewanee have retired. There are no vicarages in the R.I. Circuit now. He has begun a Sunday Bible class on "Who we are as a church of Christ." Chairman Bill thanked Gary and LWML ladies for conducting the Prayer service in Pastor Weber's absence.

Trustee reported that during this period he replaced electrical switches and maintained lightning fixtures. Ted sprayed the back drive twice for grass and weeds growing in it. Ted reported Menards only had three ballasts left for our fluorescence lighting. A motion was made to authorize Ted to purchase these as spares by Gary Hahn and seconded by Sue Cervantez. Motion carried

In old business Bill reported that Kari and Sue had negotiated with Frontier to reduce the phone bill about \$80 per month by taking off long distance service for the church's phones. Gary reported no response from elevator repair or inspection companies for over a year.

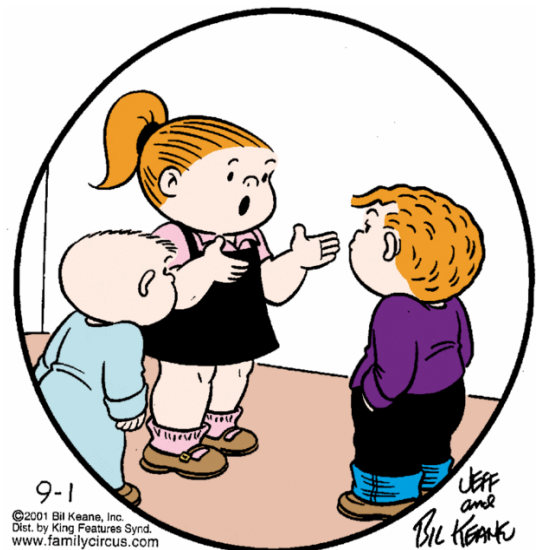
Gary Hahn presented information on a review of our sound system and acoustics. Thompson Electronics has quoted \$31,000 for system replacement with newer technology and \$30,000 to install acoustic damping materials on the rear wall. Gary asked if the voters had any objections to mounting speakers up front, and /or curtains across the glass windows in the rear of the nave. No response was forthcoming. A motion was made by Kevin and second by Ted to table discussion until more information could be gathered using existing sound system equipment and speaker relocation. Motion approved.

With no other business A motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Hull and seconded by Ted Sturtevant. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

### **Q: What is the role of elders in a congregation?**

**A:** What we commonly call "elders" in the LCMS are laypersons appointed to serve a congregation in various ways, in keeping with its constitution and bylaws. Elders (or deacons) typically support and assist the pastor in his spiritual and administrative tasks toward the goal of nurturing and strengthening the spiritual life, mission, and ministry of the congregation. The office of pastor is divinely instituted and indispensable for the Church, but an elder or deacon is a humanly instituted office. Where it exists, it seeks to provide help, support, and encouragement for pastors.

Elders should pray with and for the pastor, advise the pastor in certain decisions of pastoral care, help to evaluate and encourage his performance in his pastoral and administrative duties, assist him in visitations and in the distribution of the Lord's Supper, and advocate for the pastor's and his family's material, emotional, and spiritual well-being. In such ways elders may help a congregation and pastor to have a godly and healthy relationship.



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Jeff  
and  
Bill Keane

"God never takes a vacation 'cause He can't find anybody good enough to fill in."