



Acts of Faith

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



August 2025

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Volume 25 Issue 8

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“Witnessing Christ to the People.”: Central Illinois District of the LCMS held its 61st Convention with the theme “Witnessing Christ to the People.” The convention was situated between the observances of the Council of Nicaea (June 12) and the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene (July 12th) in our church year. We, as delegates and guests, were reminded to bear witness to our risen Lord and be true in our confession of Him. Something not very easy to do in our worldly culture today.

Consider Mary Magdalene, who at one time was tormented by demons, but was healed by Jesus (Luke 8:2). Jesus had compassion and grace on her, and she responded in faith and devotion. She became a faithful follower of our Lord, was at His crucifixion and death, and was the first person to see the risen Christ, giving witness to His disciples (Mark 16:9-10). God used this woman to first witness and confess the joyful message of Easter. Afterwards, Christ’s disciples, Paul, and many others saw the risen Lord and gave witness to it.



Then, there is the account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4). This encounter was not a random meeting. It was planned by God and it depicts Jesus’ mercy and love for us. This immoral woman, forbidden for Jews to talk with, was shunned by her community and desperate for a satisfying life. Jesus was all about calling sinners to repentance, that they would realize their sin, sense their need, and find their forgiveness in Him. She was forever changed by Jesus’ love for her. In her joy and excitement, she went out and witnessed to others, and they believed also. A common sinner, like us, witnessing what Christ did for her.

As believers in Christ, we have been called to witness and share the Gospel. In Acts 1:8 Jesus calls His disciples witnesses and sends them to the ends of the earth with the good news by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ... to all the end of the earth.” Throughout the Bible, God’s people were called to be witnesses and declare Him the only true and faithful God. As a witness, it is the role of every Christian to share the Gospel message in our daily lives. This includes our family, friends, neighbors, and everyone we come into contact with.

What does it mean to bear witness to Jesus Christ? First, give personal testimony to what you have come to know through His word. Next, tell others about what He has done for you in your life and why you have the hope you have because He first loved us. Just plant the seed, and let God bear the fruit. While it is important to witness with our tongue, we are also witnessing with our actions. Regular attendance to hear the Word and receive the Sacrament, a long and faithful marriage, social interactions, and showing love and care for others are also examples of Christian witness. Be ready to explain your works are done because of God’s grace and love shown to you.

What then do we confess in our witness? We have the faithful testimony of the Nicene Creed that clearly expresses the truth about a Triune God and that Jesus was both God and man. Because He is both divine and human, His sacrifice on the cross paid for the sins of the world. His blood was the final payment for the sins of mankind. It is by God’s grace alone that we are redeemed and someday will have eternal life with Him.

So just maybe you might know some thirsty people in your life, in our town, who could use this living water that Jesus has so freely given to you.

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” – 1 Peter 3:15

Worship Schedule
9:00 am, Sunday Worship Service

Augusts Calendar

- Aug 03** Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
LWML Prayer service.
- Aug 10** Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
- Aug 14** WOF Mtg. 10:00 AM at church
- Aug 17** Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
- Aug 21** Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM
- Aug 24** Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
with Holy communion
- Aug 31** Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor Weber and Heather will be attending the 3rd Doxology Session on August 3rd in Collinsville, IL.



Aug. 03	Carol Cook	(Green)
Aug. 10	Mary Hahn	(Green)
Aug. 17	Kari Tavares	(Green)
Aug. 24	Marilyn Sturtevant	(Green)
Aug. 31	Leah Weber	(Green)

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:	Bill Croegaert
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 Nuding, and Betty and Glen Godke..



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 form available on Narthex kiosk and hand it to Pastor.

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.



Faith is still collecting used aluminum cans and miscellaneous metal to recycle. If you have a bag of cans leave them in the lower level near the back doors. Every little bit helps support spreading the Word of God in our community.



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 14th at 10:00 AM. Cheryl Snyder will be the hostess. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Ladies are asked to bring greeting cards to make cross handouts. Mary will provide a travel presentation on her recent trip to the Hawaiian Islands. They will also work on 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.

The LWML focus this month is on the Mission Grant No. 1- Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailers. LCMS Disaster Response has partnered with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to provide disaster-response trailer grant. Response team members provide Gospel comfort to churches and communities suffering in the wake of disasters. This grant will provide funds for half the cost of two LERT disaster response trailers to house shower and laundry facilities for disaster-relief operations. Thank you for your support and prayers for this Mission



Voters' Meeting Notes: Pastor Weber opened with a prayer. Minutes from the January 12, 2025, meeting were read by Secretary Kari.

The first 6 months 2025 financial report by Sue Cervantez was shared. Income of \$41,992.33 and Expenses of \$44,212.72. CEF Balance is \$104,234, and Memorial/Designated Fund Balance is \$17,291.04. Expenses regarding the repair and maintenance of the elevator is \$17,656.91 which includes the prepayment to Otis Elevator.

Elder's reported the death of member, Vanda Hollock in June. A list of 57 members has been determined for consideration to be peaceably released by self-exclusion from worship. A final letter will be attempted to be sent to these names before being released next January. The list is posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for review.

Pastor Weber reported that Gary Hahn and he attended the CID convention as voting delegates. Rev. Umbarger will retire at the end of this month. Holy Cross-Moline remains vacant.

Trustee Ted reported the need for repair and resurfacing of the parking lot. A bid of \$8500 to do complete job, and a bid of \$2450 for patching repair and crack filling. A motion was made to authorize Ted to accept the repair and cracking filling offer.

In old business the elevator repair remains to be scheduled.

Gary Hahn moved the WOF be given permission to have a gathering of gifts for Phil's Friends. Motion approved.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

2025 CID Convention Review: On July 15th Pastors and lay delegates from the 148 congregations gathered for the 61st Regular Convention of the Central Illinois District under the theme of “Witnessing Christ to the People.” At the opening worship service on Sunday evening, Synod President Rev. Matthew Harrison presented the message on witnessing Christ. He was thrilled as this was the final district convention of the year.

The first order of business on Monday was the re-election of Rev. Michael Mohr as the district’s President for the next three years. Electronic voting devices made the election of officers and resolution votes go quick and smoothly keeping the business portion of the process ahead of schedule.

Resolution 2025-2-01 Called for Central Illinois District to launch of a funding campaign to raise \$1.5 million for repairs and 31 upgrades to district facilities and \$5.5 million for longer-range financial support through contributions to endowment funds for continued funding of these valuable District mission treasures. This was approved on a vote of 101-80. Details for implementing the campaign have not been finalized.

Resolution 2025-2-02 Dollars For Missions program was to be suspended in CID at the close of the convention. This was amended to reaffirm DFM with monies going to the district’s mission projects and new church starts. The amended version was approved. It was pointed out that only one sixth of the district’s congregations participated in DFM.

Resolution 2025-2-04 Starting with calendar year 2027, the district will calculate for each congregation an annualized 9 assessment totaling 1/3 of the anticipated cost for the district’s conference and convention expenses for the upcoming triennium (the synod convention, the district convention, 5 official district pastors’ conferences (with no conference in the Spring of a District Convention year), 3 official pastors’ wives’ retreats, 2 official district teachers’ conferences, and official district education administrators’ conferences). This assessment will be divided proportionally among the congregations, 40% based on communicant membership, 40% based on average attendance (both as reported by the congregations in their most recent annual statistical report to synod), and 20% based on total number of congregations in the district. The amount of this annual assessment will be set by the CID Board of Directors at their May meeting and communicated to congregations no later than June 1 of the calendar year prior to the assessment.

Overture 25-03 23 That the District memorialize the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention to establish a task force to thoroughly review the current healthcare options available to church workers and explore alternative models that provide more comprehensive, affordable, and sustainable coverage. After considerable discussion Resolution 2025-01-10 was approved to dismiss the overture as unneeded on a 101-47 vote.

Rev. Timothy Nerud, St. John -Geneseo was ratified as Rock Island District Visitor.

Rev. Jason Braaten, Immanuel, Tuscola, IL and Rev. Mark Eddy, Zion, Taylor Ridge, IL were elected 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents respectively.

All other resolutions were adopted by voice vote.

Women of Faith will be collecting items for Phil’s Friends in the next few months.

They include these items in their boxes to cancer patients.

Fuzzy socks

Little packages of tissues

Lip balm

Playing cards

Lotions, no fragrance, 6 oz

Puzzle books

Mouth rinse 4-8 oz size, Alcohol free

Toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste



Q: Does Kewanee have a Pregnancy Resource Center?

A: On July 26th the Help Every Life Prosper (HELP) Center opened at 325 W 4th Street, in Kewanee. This nonprofit organization provides resources and support to new and expectant mothers in Kewanee, IL and the surrounding area. They are accepting donations of disposable diapers and wipes, gently used baby clothes (size preemie to 4T), baby and maternity items, and monetary support.

Contact info (309) 909-7936 or helpcenterkewanee@gmail.com .

