



Acts of Faith

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



August 2026

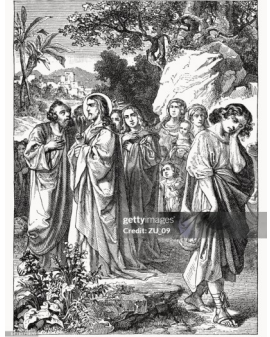
Volume 26 Issue 8

Pastor Paul Weber

cell: 309-716-4759

email: chapemcc@gmail.com

Defining Ourselves: [Jesus told the rich man] *“You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”* When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. *“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”* —Mark 10:21b-22, 25



Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For, giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living have on us. Interestingly, for all Jesus’ talk about money, He never asks for it. And He never condemns it. Instead, Jesus warns us about the corrupting influence of money. Wealth poses spiritual risks. Jesus teaches that money has the power to turn us inward – away from loving God with all our heart and loving our neighbor as ourselves. It confuses our values and direction. All of us want full lives brimming with security, relationship, joy, peace and love – but money can ensure us none of those things. They are the fruits of loving God with all our strength and of loving our neighbor as ourselves. Our own desires can get in the way.

When we are singularly focused on making or sustaining a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others?” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, nor do we become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the Divine Nature. As Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35).

That was the issue with the rich man in Mark 10:17-27. Deeply religious, he nonetheless worries about eternal life. The “one thing” he lacks, Jesus tells him, can be satisfied by selling what he has and giving to the poor. Generous giving would break the bond that money has over him and help re-center him on loving God and loving neighbor. Generosity is the spiritual prescription Jesus gives the rich man, and it’s the one for us, too.

Worship Schedule
9:00 am, Sunday Worship Service

August Calendar

Aug 02	Ninth Sunday after Trinity with Holy communion.
Aug. 08	R.I. Cir. Workshop St. John's -Geneseo 8:30am-3:30pm
Aug 09	Tenth Sunday after Trinity with Holy communion
Aug 13	WOF Mtg. 10:00 AM at church
Aug 16	Eleventh Sunday after Trinity with Holy communion
Aug 20	Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM
Aug 23	Twelfth Sunday after Trinity with Holy communion
Aug 30	Thirteen Sunday after Pentecost No Communion



Aug. 02	Marilyn Sturtevant (Green)
Aug. 09	Carol Cook (Green)
Aug. 16	Leah Weber (Green)
Aug. 23	Kari Tavares (Green)
Aug. 30	Marilyn Sturtevant (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, Randy Stockner, and Carol Cook.

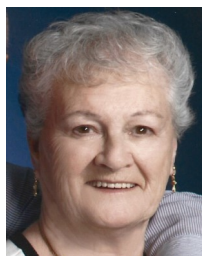
Friends: Pat Hewitt, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, and all military personnel and first responders.

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.



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.



Elizabeth "Betty" Godke, 92 of Kewanee, went to Jesus at 12:25 p.m., Friday, July 17, 2026. Funeral service was held at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 22 at Faith Lutheran Church in Kewanee with Pastor Paul Weber officiating. A visitation was held from 12:00 p.m. until the time of the service at the church. The burial followed at Pleasant View Cemetery.

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" Revelation 14:13



Our prayerful sympathies go out to the family of William R. Thompson Jr. (Billy), 88 of Kewanee, Illinois, passed away Friday, July 17, 2026, at home with family. Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 25 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kewanee with Rev. Paul Weber officiating.



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
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 13th at 10:00 AM. Marilyn will be the hostess. The program will be representative from Help Every Life Prosper, a nonprofit organization that provides resources and support to new and expectant mothers in Kewanee, IL and the surrounding area. The ladies are collecting items to donate to the agency at this meeting. Boxes for the congregation donations, new or slightly used, are located in the Narthex. The time is dependent on the speaker's availability.

The LWML focus this month is on the Mission Grant No. 14 **Reaching Jewish People with the Gospel in Israel** \$100,000. Six million unsaved Jewish people live in Israel, and they need to hear the saving words of the Gospel. A new Lutheran church was planted in Tel Aviv under the leadership of Israeli Jewish believer, Sahar Sadlovsky. He was ordained last October, and the congregation has been holding weekly services of Word and Sacraments for the past six months. To strengthen this new Lutheran church, short-term mission teams of lay people and clergy will go to Tel Aviv and assist in reaching people with the Gospel. This grant will provide funds to develop training materials for volunteers and support their travel to spread the Gospel in Israel. Thank you for your support.



At the July W.O.F. meeting, Heather Weber presented a program on the Weber family trip to Ireland last year. She served a delicious Irish stew and brown bread for lunch, and displayed their souvenirs retrieved while visiting.

Voters' Meeting Notes: Pastor Weber opened with a prayer. Minutes from the January 2026 meeting were read by Secretary Kari.

The treasurer's report was distributed and presented by Sue Cervantez. The Jan-Jun 2026 report was distributed for review. Faith's YTD contributions and other income for 2026 are \$36,316.00/\$13,122.47 for a total of \$49,438.47 and expenses were \$56,013.99. The net income shows a **deficit** of **6,575.52**. The mortgage balance is \$85,503.42 as of May 2026. The General Fund balance is \$40,310.73 with the Memorial/Designated Fund balance of \$8,800.63 for a total of \$49,111.36. This report also provided an itemized detailed report of income and expenses. Sue informed that \$500.00 from the Carol Schwefel memorial was transferred to the Benevolent Fund.

Elder's report was given by Gary Hahn. Seventeen inactive members of Faith have been removed by the action of the January Vote's meeting. On 3/2/26 a letter of encouragement was sent to the remaining 26 inactive members. No responses have been received. These names will be reviewed for recommendation of removal in January 2027. No other membership changes for this period. On April 18th Council members from Faith and St. Paul's met to discuss combined worship services when the Pastors are unavailable. It was mutually agreed that when the home Pastor is gone, that congregation will attend the other church for service to be conducted by their Pastor.

Pastor Weber informed that there are now three vacancies in our circuit. Pastor has also been helping out at Holy Cross-Moline with a weekly morning bible study on Wednesdays.

Trustee Ted reported that the Fire Department had a building inspection and installed a key lock box on the North side of the front entrance. This will allow the Fire Dept. access to the building should an emergency take place. We had a spring cleanup for the grounds in April. Thanks to all who came out to lay mulch, clean windows, trim bushes, and much more. The weeds have been sprayed several times and volunteer saplings have been cut down. The 5 year sprinkler testing was done by Getz in April, the inspection passed. The annual back flow water testing was done by Ed's Plumbing this past month.

Old Business: The ceiling work in the sanctuary has been completed by Israel brothers. The elevator license was received from the State Fire Marshal's office and is now posted in the elevator. It expires in February of 2029. The fire extinguishers still need to be inspected by Getz for this year. Gary will repost the 26 names on the bulletin board that are being considered for removal pending responses. The annual Oktoberfest will be held again this year.

With no other business a motion to adjourn was made. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the Doxology.

Q: Does it matter whether a congregation uses individual cups or a common cup to distribute the consecrated wine?

A: In absence of a specific Scriptural mandate, either method of distribution, when preformed in a reverent manner, is acceptable. Use of the common cup is a symbolism representing oneness of the body of Christ, His church. Any decision in this area is to be marked by Christian liberty and charity.

Please turn to the back of your hymnals to 'Responsive Mumbling' #634.



**A BLESSED CHURCH TRADITION
RESPONSIVE READING, or is it a MUMBLE?**

Congregations of CID have a new resource called *Exploring God's Mission Here*. The R.I. Circuit workshop will be held on **August 8th** from 9:00AM-3:30PM to present this resource. **St. John's Geneseo** will host this meeting. Pastors and lay leaders are asked to attend with congregational statistics including current budget and annual reports from last 3 years.. Free lunch will be provided. RSVP requested by July 30th for planning purposes, by calling St. John's @ 815-989-2025 or email: churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org

**I CAN DO ALL THINGS
THRU CHRIST WHO
STRENGTHENS ME.
PHILLIPANS 4:13**

