



# Acts of Faith

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



January 2025

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**Born Under the Law:** *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,”* Galatians 4:4

In the above Bible passage St. Paul tells us that our Savior Jesus born in Bethlehem was “born under the law,” referring to the Law of Moses. God emphasizes His Son's humanity in this verse. To be under something means to be a subordinate, to be subject to someone or something. For example the subordinate soldiers follow their commander's orders without hesitation, or slaves were to be subordinate to their masters. Paul wrote earlier, *“Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed.”*

These are somber words which remind us, because of God's Law there was no freedom. The law has the words “Thou shall and you must.” The law also prohibits other actions. God's law requires complete obedience and will not tolerate disobedience or any excuses. It threatens and condemns. In Galatians 3:10 we read, *“Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”* As sinners, by nature, we were cursed and doomed to eternal death.

But God had a plan for our salvation. God sent His Son and placed Him under the law. The Lord of the law became a subject to the demands and requirements of the law for us.

The first public indication of Jesus' subjection to the law for us came when He was just eight days old. The circumcision of Jesus is an event from the life of Jesus, according to the Gospel of Luke chapter 2:21, *“And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.”* On that day, when He officially received His name Jesus, meaning “Savior,” He was circumcised according to the law in Leviticus 12:3, *“And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.”* Jesus saved us by keeping God's law in perfect obedience for us as true man, and later by dying on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. At the time of His crucifixion God, the Father, laid the entire burden of the sins of the world upon His head.



A Christian who repents and receives forgiveness of sin through the blood of Christ does not have to keep the Old Testament ceremonial laws either. When one repents from sin, has faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and is baptized, he receives complete and total forgiveness of any and all sins. This is why it was so important that our Savior had to be born under the law.

Heavenly Father, we confess that we are not capable of keeping your law. We deserve your everlasting punishment. Therefore, we praise and thank you for sending your Son to be born under the law to obey your law in our place. Amen

*May your life be blessed as you see God bring forth new things  
in the coming year!*

**2025**

Worship Schedule  
 9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service  
 Adult Bible Class, 10:15 A.M.



*January's Calendar*

- Jan. 01 New Year Celebration
  - Jan. 05 Baptism of Our Lord with Holy Communion**  
Mite box collection
  - Jan. 06 Epiphany
  - Jan. 09 WOF meeting 10:00 AM
  - Jan. 11 Remove decorations 9:00 AM
  - Jan. 12 Second Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion**  
Voters Assembly 10:00AM
  - Jan. 19 Third Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion**
  - Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Observance
  - Jan. 26 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany with Holy communion**
- There will be no Elders or Council meeting in January.

Jan. 05	Mary Hahn	White
Jan. 12	Sharon Larson	Green
Jan. 19	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
Jan. 26	Kari Tavares	Green

**ELDER'S LIST:**

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

**USHER'S LIST**

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

Portals of Prayer devotional booklets are now available for the first quarter of the year (January-March) in small and medium sizes. Please pick up a copy for yourself and others you might know .

**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, Bonnie Nuding, Nancy Gillespie and Vanda Hallock.

**Friends:** Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, Art Rosencarter, and all military personnel and first responders.

**CID:** Our campus, prison, deaf, and Hispanic missions in the District need your prayers and support.

**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.

**Our World:** Citizens of and those in Ukraine and Israel that peace may come to these lands.

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*



**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.

**Bulletin Announcements:** If you have an announcement for the church bulletin please submit it via email to kltavares21@yahoo.com by Thursday prior to Sunday.

# JANUARY

## Birthdays

Michael Estes	1/01
JoAnn Behnke	1/04
Maclin Talbot	1/10
Sophie Cervantez	1/11
Dawn Hull	1/14
Marilyn Sturtevant	1/18
Pamela Helmkamp	1/21
Aimery Jackson	1/21

## Baptism Dates

Sharon Larson	1/09
Ashley Phillips	1/02
Kaitlyn Johnson	1/31
Maclin Talbot	1/23
Casidy Tavares	1/10
Theo Tavares	1/18



**Christmas poinsettias:** Thank you to those who donated flowers to decorate the chancel for the Christmas season. Thanks also to Kari and Sue who secured them for us.

In Memory of

Donna Becker	Loved Ones	Jeri Bye	Husband
Cervantez Family	Loved Ones	Jim and Carol Cook	Loved Ones
Gary and Mary Hahn	Loved Ones	Sandy Heinrich	Loved Ones
Mike and Paula Leezer	Loved Ones	Ted and Marilyn Sturtevant	Loved Ones

**Women of Faith:** The women of Faith will be meeting at 10:00 AM on January 9th with a Bible study, "Experience the Joy Then Share It." Mary Hahn is the hostess. Bring a can of non-cream soup for a Hobo Soup lunch. All ladies of the congregation are welcomed.

## Bible Study



Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission

In December your mites go for A "Legacy of Love for Special Needs Education" \$100,000 grant that will support Lutheran Special Education Ministry (LSEM) in the expansion of their services for special needs children in Lutheran schools and churches. It will help LSEM develop new resources to serve future needs and ensure their ministry is continually helpful and effective. Thank you for your support.

**2024 Operation Thankful** was a program sponsored by Faith congregation during Advent season to assist the Kewanee Food Pantry. On Thursday, January 2nd, the items will be delivered to the pantry. Thank you to all those who donated food or cash contributions to this effort.



Community Food Bank

**Welcome to Kewanee:** On December 22nd St. Paul's Lutheran installed their new pastor. He is Rev. Winston Grieser. He comes from a congregation in Moses Lake, Washington in the English District with a wife and four young children. He is also a Chaplain in the Indiana National Guard. CID President Mohr conducted the installation. They are currently searching for a new home in Kewanee. We welcome him and his family to town, and thank God for providing a shepherd for this congregation of believers.

**Church Council Report:** The treasurer's report was distributed and Sue reported that the general fund has \$51,771.93, the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$15,564.32 for a total of \$67,336.25. The church extension fund balance is \$116,285.51. An additional payment was made CID-CEF because we received \$1000 gifts from two families toward our mortgage balance. We thank them for their generosity.



Pastor informed the Council concerning St. Paul's new pastor. He has had a phone conversation with him.

Faith received a letter from LLC Telecom Services, Rosemont, IL inquiring if we would be open to leasing an 100' X 100' parcel of our property for the installation of a communications tower. Gary has attempted to secure more information, but as of this meeting date he has not heard back.

A 2025 budget of \$81,463 was approved for recommendation to the voters on January 12th. New names for the Council positions are still requested.

Removal of Christmas adornments is scheduled for Saturday, January 11th starting at 9:00 AM. A new vacuum sweeper has been purchased for the church.

Council approved a special collection for CID's Camp CILCA to show support and give thanks for its 75 years anniversary in 2025.

**CID News:** Congregations of the Central Illinois District will gather in convention at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield on July 13-15, 2025, under the theme "Witnessing Christ to the People." Any member of a CID congregation may nominate a pastor, commissioned worker, or layperson for one of the 28 positions to be elected at the convention. See the convention website ([www.cidlcms.org/Convention2025](http://www.cidlcms.org/Convention2025)) for more information. Faith's Lay delegate will be selected at the January 12th Voters' meeting.

Plans call for the Small Church Summit (SCS) to offer a program on February 22, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 700 S. 4th Street, Pekin, IL (61554-4504). CID Evangelism Executive Ken Schurb will be the plenary speaker before lunch.



We will be electing church council members at the January 2025 voters' assembly. Nominations are being accepted for Chairman, Secretary, trustee, and two elder positions. If you are willing to have your name on the slate, please contact any of the elders or church council members. New faces and ideas are always welcomed. Thank you to the existing council members for their many years of devoted service to our congregation.



**Joshua Bieri** and family send their thanks for the congregation's \$500 donation in support of his seminary training at Ft. Wayne, IN. The letter is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please take time to read it along with his monthly updates on his progress and his family. We continue to pray that God will send more candidates to spread His message of His salvation into the world.

**Q:** Rev. Grieser, St. Paul's, comes from a LCMS church in the English District. What is the English District?

**A:** The English District is one of the two non-geographic districts of 35 districts of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It's inception can be traced to colonial times. When the district was formally organized in 1888, there were few parishes in the Missouri Synod which used English. Thus English is a historic name. Today there are 161 congregations, 6 new mission starts, 5 campus ministries, one human care ministry, 67 schools in the Canadian province of Ontario and in 22 states, crossing 4 time zones, and employing 23 different languages for worship of the Lord and Bible study. Membership currently consists of approximately 56,000 baptized members and 44,000 communicant members. The English District's vision is to ignite Christ's Church in Mission by serving communities, connecting with the unchurched and de-churched, growing in faith and numbers, and reproducing through the planting of new churches.

# Happy New Year 2025