



Acts of Faith

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



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Pastor Paul Weber

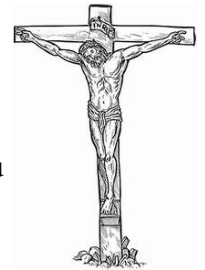
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Interdependence Day: This month we celebrate Independence Day. It is fitting as Americans that we do so. But, every day for us in the church is Interdependence Day. God has declared it so. God has declared you righteous, for Christ's sake. He has brought you into His family, the church, the community of the baptized. Here we are a new creation in Christ, enlivened by the Spirit. We love and care for one another. We restore the wandering neighbor. We bear one another's burdens. As the fruit of faith, we support one another in our life together. *"Now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life."* Romans 6:22

That rubs our Old Adam the wrong way. We don't like that. We are constantly bombarded by Critical Thinking movements that claim for one to be really free those who oppress must eliminate, such as government authorities, religious institutions, and family. They advocate "be your own god", make your own decisions on what is right and wrong! Who cares what God says? There are plenty of things to love more than God. God might spoil your fun. He may not let you do what you want to do. This is sin speaking, and Satan is more than happy to promote it. Anytime we think we know better than God, anytime we want to tune out God and not listen to what He has to say on the matter, that is sin. It's our sinful nature rising up in us. Human nature wants to be independent of our Creator, just like our first parents, Adam and Eve. The desire for independence from God led to their downfall, and it leads to our downfall, too. In fact, that desire ends in eternal death.

Our true need is for full dependence on God, from start to finish. We rely on God for forgiveness. and for eternal life. His promises are sure. The peace and mercy He provides us are centered in what is sure and reliable, namely, the cross of Jesus Christ. If you trust in yourself to be your own god, if you take pride in yourself and think you can provide for your own salvation, you will be sorely disappointed. Paul says in Galatians 6:14, *"Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ."* For on that cross, Jesus did everything you need to be saved. He shed His holy blood to atone for all of your sins. You are clean and forgiven in Christ. His righteousness is credited to your account, through faith. You are no longer cut off from God, alienated. No, now you are reconciled back to God, at peace with him, through our Savior Jesus Christ. *"For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life."* Romans 5:10



Interdependence means we rely on one another. We build up one another. We are the body of Christ. We are the church. God has made us His family. And He has done this for a purpose. We don't cut ourselves off from the body. We don't say, "I don't need to go to church to be a Christian." That's looking at it the wrong way. Through our life together in the church, through our regular receiving of the means of grace, Word and Sacrament, we are strengthened in our faith and we are strengthened in our love for one another. So when one part of the family is hurting, we all are hurting. When one part of the family is rejoicing, we all rejoice. When another goes astray, we should seek to bring them back through the gospel. Our life together is marked by mutual care and love. In today's society this often results in personal attacks and threats for being judgmental. Do not let bad situations or bad people get you down. Neither compromise biblical doctrine or your character. Pray for our own sensitivity and grace toward those as an example of Christian life, and pray for them to be restored to fellowship. By God's grace, all this works through the gospel and dependence on God.

Suggestion: If somebody asks you: "What do you think of same-sex marriage", you can say: "Well, it doesn't matter what I think about it. Here's what Jesus said about it. He said that marriage is between a man and a woman. So, if you want to argue with that, you can argue with Jesus, not me."

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



July 07	Mary Hahn	Green
July 14	Leah Weber	Green
July 21	Kari Tavares	Green
July 28	Sharon Larson	Green

July's Calendar

- July 04 Independence Day Observance
- July 07 **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion**
- July 11 WOF Mtg. 11:00 am at church
- July 14 **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion & Voter's Assembly**
- July 21 **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion**
- July 28 **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion**

No elders or Council Meeting this month.

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.



Our prayerful sympathies go out to the families of:

Agnes Elora Snyder, 98, of Galva, IL, Mother-in-law of Cheryl Snyder, passed away, on Friday, June 7, 2024.

Diane Bernitt of Burbank, Illinois, sister of Marilyn Sturtevant, having departed on May 22, 2024 at the age of 89.



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.



Birthdays

July 1	Jonathan Estes
July 3	Madeline Breedlove
July 11	Kimberly Tudder
July 21	Tiffany Carpenter
July 21	Jaxson Johnson
July 22	Janet Estes
July 25	William Croegaert
July 27	Julie Carpenter
July 29	Sara Nimrick

Baptism Dates

Madeline Breedlove	7/30
Glen Godke	7/14
Vanda Hallock	7/13
Addison Talbot	7/14



Wedding Anniversaries

July 5	Glen & Betty Godke
July 24	Mark & Pamela Helmkamp
July 27	Mike & Paula Leezer

Women of Faith: The Women of Faith will meet on June 11th at 11:00 AM. Cheryl Snyder will be the hostess. After a short business meeting, the ladies will have lunch at the Downtown Eatery, and then visit the Kewanee Historical Society Museum. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

This month we focus on the Mission Grant for students in schools and orphanages sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK) who lack clean water and regular access to pastoral care. Water and the Word install water harvesting equipment (rain gutters and tanks), locally sourced filters, hand wash stations, and clean water storage systems. Students and staff are taught about personal hygiene, handwashing, and the importance of drinking only clean water. This grant will provide clean water and cover travel expenses for pastoral care to students in 12 additional schools and orphanages in Kenya.



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.

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.



Welcome **Otto David Cervantez**, who received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on May 26, 2024. His parents are Eric and Kathy Cervantez, and paternal grandparents are Joe and Sue Cervantez. Sponsors were Chris Cervantez and Sara Nimrick. May God keep Otto in his baptismal grace, that according to His good pleasure he may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of His holy name and finally, with all the saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*“Repent and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38*

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.



Council Notes: The May treasurer's report shows that the general fund has \$52,618.92, the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$17,002.74 for a total of \$69,621.66. The church extension fund balance is \$125,211.41. Ted reported that Pastor Weber baptized Otto Cervantez on May 26, 2024.

The sound system representative, James Casey from Thompson Electric, provided Faith two different proposals for improving the sound in our worship area. Information will be presented to voters' assembly.

Pastor has begun a Sunday Bible class on "Who we are as a church of Christ."

Kari and Sue reported that our Frontier telephone service has been revised to eliminate our Nationwide service. This means only local Kewanee calls should be made with the church's phones. This will reduce our monthly billing from \$257 to \$140. Signs will be placed at both phones to remind users. Using personal cell phones is requested to save nearly \$1400 in annual expense.

Ted reported the outside water faucet has been replaced. He has flushed the building's fire suppression system. Minor electrical repairs will be done later.

There is no plans for a Fourth of July concession stand at the church.

The next Voters' meeting is scheduled for July 14th after the service.

Audio System Evaluation: Thompson Electronics Company has completed a review of our sound system in our sanctuary, and has presented the congregation with two different proposals. Presently, there is not enough direct sound reaching the front rows and too much sound is directed towards the rear wall and corners. The room design results in an echoing effect in the more high frequencies valid for speech intelligibility.

The first proposal is to replace the existing analog based sound system with a new digital Q-SYS Core audio processing system offering basic functions as power, volume, and muting. They propose to install a wall mounted directional speaker on each of the altar area, aimed across the Nave area. Existing speakers in Narthex and Cry Room will be replaced too. The lower level hardware will remain with a new feed to the amplifier down there. New equipment will also include three Shure microphone units, an uninterruptable power source, network switch, media player, touch pad control, and audio reinforcement for up to four users via a discreet ear bud receiver. The existing cabinet will be used to house the new components. Current cost of system and installation labor is \$31,116.94. This is their recommended first step in improving our sound.

The second proposal concerns with the sanctuary's acoustics. The hard walls and glass windows are causing distracting echoes or sound waves. This undesirable acoustic environment results in speech that is difficult to understand. To resolve these issues a combination of diffusers and absorbers would be installed on most of the rear wall which will reduce reverberation by approximately 20% in the room and improve speech intelligibility and music clarity. Current cost to complete this project is \$29,998.23.

Half of the cost is due upon us signing the agreement/s and the remainder upon project work completion.

This project and funding will be discussed and reviewed at the July voter's assembly, and any further action will require the acceptance by the congregation. Please bring your questions and ideas to this meeting.

Rev. Karsten and Lynette's final Sunday at Holy Cross, Moline was June 30th. We pray that God provides them a new shepherd to guide them in their ministry and the vacancy will be short.

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

Q: What is Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's position on pastors performing outdoor weddings off of church grounds, say at a beach or a park?

A: All legal marriages between one man and one woman are "honored" and recognized by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as valid and legitimate, regardless of the location under which the rite or ceremony took place. Location of the marriage ceremony performed by a pastor is the decision of your pastor in concert with your congregation. Always check with the pastor about the congregation's views about performing a wedding off church grounds.