



Acts of Faith

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



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“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame” (Rom. 5:3–5).

Do you ever feel like quitting? Quitting friends? Quitting family? Quitting a class? Quitting sports? Quitting school? Quitting church? Quitting life? Of course you have. We all have, and the reasons vary. Life is painful and complicated. It's a good thing to get out of toxic situations or at least take steps to right them.

And yet, Christians have a unique view on “quitting.” We know that suffering is good — and not just in the sense of “no pain, no gain.” We believe that God works profound blessings through suffering, even when those blessings may not be at all evident to us.

On the road to Emmaus, a couple of Jesus’ disciples spoke the greatest words of irony ever recorded. They said to Jesus (whom they did not recognize), “Jesus of Nazareth … was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people. … [Our] rulers delivered Him up to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel” (Luke 24:19–21). The irony is this: It was precisely by being put to death that Jesus did “redeem Israel.” He “was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification” (Rom. 4:25). Jesus’ suffering on the cross was the greatest good in history, and yet to His followers who saw it happening, it was scandalous and devastating. It appeared to them that God hated Him and them. But the opposite was true: On the cross, suffering worked the ultimate good. My sins and yours are paid for.

Jesus taught, “Take up [your] cross and follow Me” (Matt. 16:24). In this life, we suffer. We suffer sins against us. We suffer illness. We suffer family problems. We suffer our own failings and weaknesses and those of others. St. Paul — who himself suffered terribly — wrote these comforting words:

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (Rom. 5:1–5)

We have peace with God in Jesus. Our sins are forgiven, all of them.

In Jesus, we have access to the Father by faith because of His love and grace.

We can rejoice even when we suffer, because suffering helps us tremendously. We learn to endure. And enduring, our character grows strong. And as our character is forged, we learn to hope, to look beyond the present, knowing that in Jesus the future belongs to us. We bend, we even break sometimes. We doubt. We fear. We fail. We cling to Jesus; but more importantly, when we have nothing left, Jesus clings to us. What Jesus said to His apostles, He says to you: “I chose you. You did not choose Me” (see John 15:16).

Love is forged through these trials. Paul says it’s poured into our hearts. God loves me, and ironically, its precisely in trials that I learn that. God loves those around me, and by my suffering I learn to be compassionate and love those suffering around me. And that includes just about everybody I know. “Suffering produces endurance.”

— Pastor Matthew C. Harrison
Lutheran Witness July 2025

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

July's Calendar

- July 04 Independence Day Observance
- July 06 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion**
- July 10 WOF Mtg. 10:00 am at church
- July 13 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion**
- July 13-15 CID Convention in Springfield.
- July 20 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion & Voter's Assembly**
- July 27 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion**

No Elders or Council Meeting this month.



July 06	Mary Hahn	Green
July 13	Kari Tavares	Green
July 20	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
July 27	Carol Cook	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, Nancy Gillespie, JoAnne Behnke, Peggy Faber, Bonnie Nuding, Melissa Newman and Betty and Glen Godke.



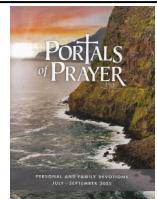
Friends: Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, Art Rosencarter, Lisa Griffin, and all military personnel and first responders.

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.

Portals of Prayer: July-September 2025 *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.



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. Prayer request cards are available in the Narthex.



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 maintain the Word of God in our community.



Baptism Dates

Madeline Breedlove	7/30
Glen Godke	7/14
Addison Talbot	7/14



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

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 10th at 10:00 AM. Mary Hahn will be the hostess and report on the LWML International Convention held in Omaha, NB last month. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. The ladies are working on additional 12 blankets for Phil's Friends.

July 2025 LWML CID Mission Grant #2 - LCMS Disaster Relief - \$10,000 LCMS Disaster Relief works with member congregations to immediately give access, relief, and aid in recovery following a disaster. This grant would replenish the funding available to meet the needs to start and enable this process at disaster time. Pray that God provides workers to bring relief and aid during a disaster throughout the US. Support this grant by donating to your church's LWML group mite fund.



Council Notes: The treasurer's report shows that the general fund has \$50,698.34, the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$16,091.04 for a total of \$66,789.38. The church extension fund balance is \$105, 608.06.

Elders request the congregation to consider granting a peaceful release of members who are no longer attending Faith, or who have relocated away from Kewanee without requesting a transfer or release. The names of those being considered self-exclusion will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex prior to the July voters' Assembly. The congregation will have to approve the releases at the January 2026 Assembly.

Gary and Pastor will be attending the CID District convention on July 13-15th in Springfield. Rev. Umbarger, St. Johns-East Moline retirement fellowship celebration will be July 27th. A Call committee is preparing to make a list of replacement Divine Call candidates.

Otis Elevator technician and an AMP Electric electrician were at the church on June 18th to determine the phone problem and install an additional smoke detector in the elevator shaft. When the smoke alarms were tested it was determined that the one or two relays in the shutdown system were not operating and also need to be replaced. A circuit board in the phone panel is thought to be shorted and will have to be replaced too. The phone was sending random calls to the 911 operator with a loud static noise that prohibit voice conversation resulting in the police coming to check out the building. The phone line was then disconnected until repairs are completed. The repair costs continue to escalate, now nearly \$20,000.



Council directed the Treasurer to invest \$25,000 into a Certificate of Deposit to earn interest until it is required.

The July Voters' Assembly is scheduled for Sunday, July 20th, after worship service.

Central Illinois District LCMS 61st Regular Convention Theme: “Witnessing Christ to the People” Acts 13:30-31 will be July 13-15, 2025 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel- Springfield, IL . This year’s convention is being asked to examine how we, as the 148 congregations of the CID, will continue to undertake that witness as we move forward into the mid-21st century. Minnesota North District Brady Finnern will be leading the convention in a study of our Confessions and how these faithful witnesses of Scripture help shape the witness we give. Gary Hahn and Pastor Weber will be voting delegates from Faith.

An important function of our convention is to elect officers to assist in the work of the district. CID Candidates for President are:

- ◆ Michael Mohr -Currently serving as Central Illinois District President, Springfield, IL
- ◆ Mark R. Eddy -Currently serving as Pastor of the Congregation at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, IL
- ◆ Jason M. Braaten -Currently serving as Pastor of the Congregation at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, IL

Two resolutions being considered that affect congregations are:

25-2-01: To Launch a Funding Campaign for Mission Support in the Central Illinois District -CID wishes to pursue a three-year, \$3 million financial campaign. Please pray for this effort and for the delegates to this summer’s convention who will consider launching this endeavor! A study also affirmed that, within a financial campaign, the first priority should be to provide for proactive repairs and upgrades anticipated to be needed at CID-owned mission sites and the District office for the next decade. Thereafter, the District can contribute campaign-generated money to endowment funds that can help to support the various specialized missions. These additional gifts will proactively take care of needed large-ticket maintenance items anticipated over the next ten years at these mission sites and our district office to help uphold and maintain our work of sharing the Gospel.

25-2-04: To Annualize Congregational Assessments-Starting with calendar year 2027, the district will calculate for each congregation an annualized 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 11 Spring of a District Convention year), 3 official pastors’ wives’ retreats, 2 official district teachers’ conferences, and 9 official 12 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.

Please remember in your prayers our District’s Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT) volunteers, who provide help in Jesus’ name to churches and individuals affected by natural disasters. Pray for the hundreds of LERT workers in CID and throughout our Synod.



Far too many parents are more interested in their kids making *the team* than making *the kingdom*.

Q: How are the Sunday Bible readings selected ?

A: A lectionary is a collection of readings from Sacred Scripture. Readings are arranged according to the Church’s calendar and are intended to be read at the regular, weekly gathering of God’s people. The *Lutheran Service Book Lectionaries* provide Sunday readings that begin with the season of Advent. For each Sunday and festival, three Scripture readings are listed from the Old Testament, the New Testament (an Epistle reading) and a Gospel reading. Psalms for the Introit are also appointed. These scripture readings are often the basis of the sermon for that Sunday. Two Lectionary Series are available: The most commonly used Lectionary is the Three-Year Series (A, B, C). Year A focuses on the Gospel of Matthew, Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark and selections from the Gospel of John, and Year C focuses on the Gospel of Luke. The other Lectionary Series is the historic One-Year Lectionary. It provides a yearly repetition of key biblical texts.