



# Acts of Faith

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



July 2026

Volume 26 Issue 7

Pastor Paul Weber

cell: 309-716-4759

email: chapemcc@gmail.com

***“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” (Galatians 5:1, ESV)***

This July 4th 2026, our nation will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and America declared its independence from England. The freedoms which were expressed in that document and fought for in that war are still enjoyed in America today. It will be a perfect day to give thanks to God for the many blessings He has bestowed on our nation since that historic moment in 1776.



The Declaration of Independence formally announced the American colonies' separation from Great Britain and asserted their right to self-governance and fundamental human rights. The Declaration of Independence was not irreligious. In the first two paragraphs of the Declaration, Mr. Jefferson, asserted that both the rights of nations and individuals were derived from a religious foundation. “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Notice our forefathers acknowledged it was God who gave us our human rights not a government. Government should protect these rights for its people.

God did not create us for independence or autonomy. He created us to be His people, and this defines us. The freedom He grants is not the same as the world's “freedom.” In fact, our God is a triune God, and thus there is a community in the Godhead itself: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And we are created in God's image. In Genesis we see that the first humans to make a mad dash for autonomy weren't Americans. They were Adam and Eve, and it didn't go well for them. The deceiver tempted Eve to crave the wrong kind of freedom, to desire what God had forbidden and brought sin into this world.

God was merciful. The cure that God provided for Adam and Eve and their children was not “self-determination,” but rather His own redemption through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus. By Christ's death and resurrection He has set us free from our bondage to sin, death, and the devil. At your Holy Baptism you were set free from these evils and made a citizen of God's eternal kingdom. God has an eternal and freedom-filled future planned for you and for all that He created.

The pursuit of happiness without God does lead to spiritual and social problems that we see in our nation and world today. We need to be reminded to focus on our Lord Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Word of God and administering the Sacraments. As Christian citizens join with all people of good will to promote and care for life, from womb to grave; to support traditional marriage, and to oppose laws, courts and governments restricting our God-given rights. Rights that were acknowledged by the Bill of Rights as inherent (not granted!).

As Christians we believe our government must stay within its boundaries when it comes to legalized abortion and the reclassification of gender identity as a protected class. The Church shall not change its teaching regarding marriage and the healthy, biblical directives for sexual expression within the marriage bond. Christians believe that the government is responsible to follow the moral law, which applies to God's temporal kingdom. Pray for our nation as we celebrate this milestone in our country's history.

***“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14***

Worship Schedule  
9:00 am, Sunday Worship Service

**July's Calendar**

|                |                                                                                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 04        | Independence Day Observance                                                             |
| <b>July 05</b> | <b>Fifth Sunday after Trinity<br/>with Holy communion</b>                               |
| July 10        | WOF Mtg. 10:00 AM                                                                       |
| <b>July 12</b> | <b>Sixth Sunday after Trinity<br/>with Holy communion</b><br>Voter's Assembly to follow |
| July 18-23     | LCMS Synodical Convention                                                               |
| <b>July 19</b> | <b>Seventh Sunday after Trinity<br/>with Holy communion *</b>                           |
| <b>July 26</b> | <b>Eighth Sunday after Trinity<br/>with Holy communion*</b>                             |

No Elders or Council Meeting this month.

**Welcome** St. Paul's members worshipping with us on July 19 & 26 during Rev. Grieser's absence.



|          |                    |       |
|----------|--------------------|-------|
| July 05  | Carol Cook         | Green |
| July 12  | Leah Weber         | Green |
| July 19* | Kari Tavares       | Green |
| July 26* | Marilyn Sturtevant | Green |

\* St. Paul's members visiting Faith

**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, Randy Stockner, and Betty Godke.

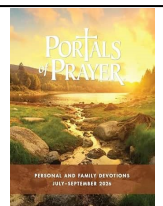
**Friends:** Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, and all military personnel and first responders.

**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.



**Portals of Prayer:** July-September 2026 *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.



We welcome **Alice Christiana Grieser** to our community. Born on Monday, June 22, 2026.

**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.

## July Birthdays

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



## Wedding Anniversaries

July 27 Mike & Paula Leezer

## Baptism Dates

|                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Madeline Breedlove | 7/30 |
| Addison Talbot     | 7/14 |



**Women of Faith:** The Women of Faith will meet on Friday, July 10th at 10:00 AM. Cheryl Snyder will be the hostess. Heather Weber will present a program on their trip to Ireland. All ladies of the congregation and St. Paul's are invited to attend. Lunch will be Irish stew and brown bread.

July 2026 LWML Mission Grant #13 **Reaching God's Children in Haiti**, Trinity HOPE, Haiti \$61,782  
Trinity HOPE is helping children in Haiti by providing nourishment for the body and soul. This grant will be used to reach around 425 students at a rural school in Paul et Isabel, Haiti. Prayers of thanks are said over the food and hymns of praise can be heard throughout the school day. Providing a lunch has allowed students to stay engaged in school and retain what they are learning. Trinity HOPE has seen regular attendance, students' national test scores, and grade level advancement all increase significantly when schools are a part of their program. Students' basic needs are being met while hearing about God's love for them. Thank you for your prayers and support.



**Council Notes:** The treasurer's report shows that the general fund has \$38,427.60, the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$8600.63 for a total of \$47,028.23. The church extension fund balance is \$85,503.42. Year to date expenses are \$4,128.91 greater than our income. There is an outstanding Getz Fire inspection bill of \$613.00.

The next voter's assembly is scheduled for July 12 following worship service.

R.I. Circuit workshop will be held on August 8th from 9:00AM-3:00PM to review each congregation's financial and membership status as well as any future plans. St. John's Geneseo will host this meeting. Pastors and lay leaders are asked to attend with congregational statistics. 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

The annual City water backflow test was performed by Ed's Plumbing last month. Joe Cervantez and Gary continue to cut the campus grasses.

**S.A.L.T.** (Secretaries and Administrators in Lutheran Fellowship) The Rock Island Circuit has 12 churches, 10 of which have secretaries/administrators. The secretaries have begun a new partnership in our Circuit ministry: one that supports each other in their positions by sharing ideas, problem solving together, and praying for one another. They are also working together to provide opportunities for our Circuit churches to connect through fellowship, service events, and worship. Watch your bulletin and newsletters for upcoming events and a special fundraiser that everyone can enjoy in 2027,

Kari would appreciate any church pictures, prefer digital, of Faith and our activities to submit for the 2027 calendar project.

*"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance."*

Psalms 33:12

**Scholastic Honors:** We congratulate Black Hawk East Campus students for their hard work and academic achievements. Our members Addyson Hicks, Kamdyn Hicks, and Tinsley Newman are named on their Spring 2026 Honors List.

**LWML:** Central Illinois District 2026–2028 Mission Grants & Convention Highlights. Delegates approved a change to the CID LWML convention schedule: LWML CID will now hold conventions every two years (biennium) and conventions will occur in the opposite years of the National LWML Convention. Mite Goal for 2026–2028 \$220,000 Biennium Goal. As part of this new biennium, 75% of mites will remain in the Central Illinois District to fund district mission grants and 25% will be contributed toward national LWML mission grants.



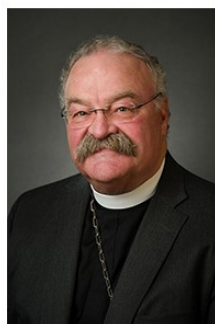
We console the family and friends of David Noard, of Geneseo, Illinois. David E. Noard, 88, of Geneseo, passed away on June 20, 2026, at Hillcrest Home in Geneseo, IL. David and his wife Joy are members of Concordia-Geneseo and friends of Faith Lutheran.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, July 5th 2026 from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM at the Vandemore Funeral Home - Geneseo (580 E Ogden Ave, Geneseo, IL 61254). A funeral service will be held on Monday, July 6th 2026 at 10:30 AM at the Concordia Lutheran Church (316 S Oakwood Ave, Geneseo, IL 61254).



**LCMS News:** The 69th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) is scheduled for July 18–23, 2026, in downtown Phoenix, AZ. The theme will be “Christ Is

Risen Indeed,” based on 1 Corinthians 15:20–22. The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received more than 50% of the votes cast in the third ballot for the election of the president of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, is the president-elect for the 2026–2029 triennium. It will be his sixth term in office.



Right: **IESA State Champion:** Olive Ann Nimrick, daughter of Sara Nimrick, and granddaughter of Sue Cervantez, won the IESA girls 7th grade long jump event for 2026 at East Peoria.

Left: **Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison**, the LCMS president-elect for the 2026–2029 triennium



## Q: Who Communes the Pastor?

**A:** The Holy Scriptures give us no direction on the question of self-communion by the pastor. Martin Luther and Lutheran theologians who followed him regarded the practice of a pastor communing himself as permissible, as long as it was done within the public worship service in the presence of the assembled congregation.

Dr. C. F. W. Walther, the first president of the Missouri Synod, took up the question in the 1906 printing of his *Pastoral Theology*, calling attention to Luther’s position in a survey of what other Lutheran teachers said about the topic. The *Altar Book* of the LCMS’s new hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, allows a pastor’s self-communion in the following description present in all the Divine Service settings of the *LSB*: “The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first, the presiding minister communing himself and his assistants. Then they distribute the body and blood to those who come to receive” (p. 168).

The pastor is a member of the congregation that he serves. He is a Christian and a sinner in need of the Sacrament. The Sacrament, administered according to Christ’s institution, remains valid and beneficial whether the pastor distributes the elements to himself or whether another Christian, such as a lay assistant chosen to do so, distributes it to him.

September 7, 2010 / *Lutheran Witness* / by Dr. Jerald C. Joersz