



# Acts of Faith

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



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**Gone Fishing:** While waiting on instructions from the risen Christ, His disciples decided to return to fishing on the sea. Perhaps they were bored, or hungry, or hoped to make some money. After fishing all night they caught nothing. They were doing what they knew how to do, but had no success until Jesus appeared to them from shore. Jesus prepared a warming fire, cooked them a breakfast, and told them where to catch a boat load of fish. Christ took care of all their physical needs.

*When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." (John 21:15-17)*



This exchange took place on the sea shore after the resurrected Savior had prepared a meal for His disciples. Jesus asks Peter a simple question. Do you really love me? Jesus asked Peter three times if he loves Him. Remember, it was Peter in the temple courtyard on that first Good Friday morning that denied his Lord three times while around another warming fire. Peter confesses that the Son of God knows his heart better than Peter does himself. Each time Peter answers in the affirmative, Jesus gives him the assignment of tending to His flock, the new Christian church. Doing this Jesus reassures Peter that his sins have been forgiven by God's grace and love. Jesus seeks an unconditional love like the love of God. This love also requires a follow through action by the disciples. Paul warns in 1 Corinthians 16:22, *If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed.* That is a very scary thought!

How about us? Have we ever denied our Lord? Do we really love Jesus? As Christians, hopefully we have never denied Jesus intentionally, but like Peter we are daily pressured by the devil, the world, and our flesh to deny our Savior through our inappropriate words and actions. We are denying Him when we fail to share the saving Gospel with others on His behalf, fail to love Him with our whole heart, or fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. It may be easy to say we love Christ, but following through is not always trouble-free to do.

The great news is that our Lord has forgiven our sins, and has redeemed us to be Holy before God. He lovingly welcomes us into His family. He restores our souls and sends the Holy Spirit to lead us in His path no matter how often we may fall or stray away. He invites us to receive His forgiveness in the Sacraments. He nourishes us with His Word and Spirit each Sunday at worship service. In return we should pray for and support our pastor and the church ministry. We should put the needs of others ahead of our own selfish desires.

Jesus' love, so strong He gave His life that we might have a new life, and His blessings are always there for us. Even if we question why me during times of distress, danger, burden, or sadness, He will never desert or deny us. Christ brings hope out of chaos, and changes us by the love and grace of God. Christ is risen indeed, and we too shall be risen someday.

**National Day of Prayer:** May 2, the first Thursday in May, everyone is invited to pray for our nation no matter what your faith or political affiliation.

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

**May's Calendar**

- May 02 National Day of Prayer
- May 05 **Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**  
 Mite collection
- May 06 LifeLight Study 1:00 PM
- May 12 **Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**  
 Mother's Day Observance
- May 13 LifeLight Study 1:00 PM
- May 16 WOF Meeting 10:00 PM
- May 19 **Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**
- May 20 LifeLight Study 1:00 PM
- May 21 Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM  
 Church Council 7:00 PM
- May 26 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**
- May 27 LifeLight Study 1:00 PM  
 Memorial Day Observance
- May 30 **Ascension Day**

**Altar Guild Schedule**

May 05	Mary Hahn	White
May 12	Kari Tavares	White
May 19	Sharon Larson	White
May 26	Marilyn Sturtevant	White

**Weekly Ushers:**

- 1st Sunday: Gary Hahn & Kevin Hull
- 2nd Sunday: Eric Cervantez & Nick Leezer
- 3rd Sunday: Nick Philips & Randy Stockner
- 4th Sunday: Mike Leezer & Wendell Hier
- 5th Sunday: Kevin Hull & Ted Sturtevant

**Elders List:**

- Wayne Becker: 309-853-8783
- Kevin Hull: 309-852-0801
- Ron Larson: 309-853-5111
- Mike Leezer: 309-286-3014
- Ted Sturtevant: 309-853-8203
- Wendell Hier 309-853-8388

**REMEMBER:** Please contact the office and inform us of any changes of name, address, marital status, e-mail, phone, and cell phone.

**Those For Whom We Pray:** Please include the following in your thoughts and daily prayers.

**Our Faith family:** Cari Bridgewater, Betty Godke, Tootie Godke, Fred Stapel, Bonnie Nuding, and Pam Braunlich.

**Friends:** Jeff Bowman, Karen Wright, Judi Umbarger, and all military personnel.

**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.

**R.I. Cir:** St. Matthew, Milan, and Trinity, Coal Valley, are calling shepherds to lead their congregations. Pray that God grant these congregations patience, wisdom, and discernment in this process.



**Prayer Requests:** Have someone or something that you would like Pastor Weber 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.

**Graduations:** If you or your son, daughter, or grandchild is a member, and known to us at Faith and is graduating from high school, college, or trade school this spring or summer, please notify us of their name, graduation date, and future plans by Monday, May 20 to be recognized in our newsletter.

**Council News:** At the April meeting Council authorized the treasurer to begin submitting to the CID-Church Extension Fund the minimum mortgage payment of \$2,095 instead of the previous amount of \$3,156.46. This action was the result of our church income being \$3000 under the budget amount for the first quarter of 2019. The CEF had reduced our payment last year when they increased our loan interest rate. Our general fund reserve has been reduce significantly over this period.

### May Birthdays

Mary Hahn	5/01
Jenny Leezer	5/01
Jacob Townsend	5/06
Michelle Croegaert	5/11
Wendell Hier	5/15
Nancy Gillespie	5/21
Jeri Erickson	5/26
Louis "Chip" Wager	5/31

### Baptism Dates

Melisa Carper	05/27
Eric Cervantez	05/28
Cindy Ganschow	05/09
Mary Hahn	05/22
Dylan Mallery	05/13
Cheryl Snyder	05/30
Miah Townsend	05/07

### Lutheran Hour Ministry Radio Program

Station	City, State	Freq.	Day & Time
WKEI	Kewanee, IL	1450 AM	Sun 5:30 AM

### Wedding Anniversaries

LaJean and William Breedlove	5/02
Dawn and Kevin Hull	5/23
Mary and Gary Hahn	5/24

**LifeLight Bible Study** begins on April 29th at 1:00 PM This session will be on Ephesians / 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Each lesson will go from 1:00– 2:00 PM with fellowship at the end of each session. Please contact Gary Hahn or leave a note in the office if you are interested in joining this nine session study.

**Easter Lilies:** Thank you for donating Easter Lilies to adorn our Sanctuary for Easter: Mike and Paula Leezer, Bill and Claudia Croegaert, Ron and Sharon Larson, JoAnn Behnke, Gary and Mary Hahn, Sue Cervantez, Jim and Carol Cook, and Mary Duncan. Thank you Wayne and Donna Becker for securing and placing the lilies in the church.



**Our Christian sympathy and prayers** are extended to the family of Raymond G. Heinrich. Ray, 85, died April 1, 2019 at the Kewanee Care Home. His funeral and visitation were held at Faith on April 5th. Ray and Sandy are Charter members of Faith Lutheran.

“Fight the good fight of faith” 1 Timothy 6:12

**Women of Faith:** The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, **May 16**, at 10:00AM. Donna Becker will be hostess and lead a devotion. All ladies are invited to attend. Program will be a presentation by Steven Becker about his mission trip to Nepal.

On May 5th you have the opportunity to support the LWML Mission Grants through your mites. Circuit 28 of the Texas District has come up with a plan to share the work of a trained church worker within the circuit and also train additional young adults to reach out to their neighbors and friends in Rio Grande, one of the poorest areas in the US. They will be working with congregations and community organizations to help and to share the love of Jesus through ESL classes, literacy classes and Bible studies. These people are sharing the love of Jesus ...*we love because he first loved us...*(1 John 4:19). Thank you for your support of these Mission Projects.



Thank you to the Doris Hepner family for donating to Faith some beautiful white table linens and a picture of Christ.

The Ray Heinrich family wishes to thank the members of Faith for hosting and serving a luncheon after Ray's funeral in the fellowship hall.

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**R.I. Circuit News:** It has been reported that Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Colona, IL has decided to close their church. This past winter a water pipe froze and burst open spilling water throughout the church building. While they have not reached a settlement with their insurance company, they do not believe it is financially viable to remain a congregation. Currently, they are sharing Trinity, Coal Valley facility for worship services. We are sad to hear this news.

**2019 CID Spring Pastors' Conference** will be held on May 6-8 At St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Decatur, IL. The theme for the conference is STEWARDSHIP IN THE PARISH with guest speakers: Rev. Heath Curtis, Rev. Dr. Wayne Knolhoff, and Rev. Dr. Ken Schurb.



Our thoughts and prayers go out to:

Linda Jacobs and family of her mother, Joyce Long, who died on March 30th. Joyce was a member at St. Paul Lutheran and good friend of Faith Lutheran.

Mary Hahn and the family of her sister, Janet Oldinski, who died on March 21st in Decatur, IL.

Cindy Ganschow and family of her brother, Terry Pierson, who passed away on April 8th in Princeton, IL.

There are a number of members who may be endangering their eternal salvation by failing to worship their Lord and Savior on a regular basis, and may not be spiritually strengthened by the Word and Sacraments.

The Elders have attempted to contacted the following members by letter concerning their inactivity and membership at Faith Lutheran. Please join the Council in praying for these members that they may return to worship here at Faith, transfer to another LCMS congregation, or request a peaceful release to begin worshipping God somewhere else if they so desire.

Karen Adkison

LaJean Breedlove (Cal, Maddie, Jack)

Myrene (Stapel) Carper

Christian (Davis) Clapper

Peter Clapper

Lauri (Stewart) Cochran (Erica)

Rachael Damm (Halea, Hunter)

Jane (Felten) Davis

Paul & Janet Estes

Douglas Hahn

Vanda Hallock

Heidi Heinrich (Kylee Conklin, Aimery Jackson)

Jeff & Laura Heinrich (Ernst, Charles)

Mark & Pam Helmkamp

Lisa (Croegaert) Huseby

Jenny (Leezer) Cole

Melissa (Robinson) Newman

Matt & Kathy Peed (Austin)

Layne Stapel

Layne Tharp

Lorie (Jacobs) Townsend (Jacob, Miah)

Mark & Kim Tudder (Ryan, Kaitlyn)

Mallery Tudder

Louis (Chip) Wager

Jim & Debbie (Felten) Woods

Andrew Yarger

The Council requests the married name and current addresses for:

Joy (Hernandez) Butler

Jacob Hernandez (Jacob)

Jeri Erickson

Gillespie - Marlin, Yancy, Maggie, Larry

Kelly Gillespie (Emma)

Please provide the Elders with any pertinent information you have regarding our inactive members. We rejoice with the Lord upon their return to regular church worship.

The Council is seeking someone to maintain the hay field surrounding our facility. The previous farmer is no longer interested in doing it. If you have a suggestion for this property or a name of someone who may be interested in bailing the fields, please contact Bill Croegaert, Chairman..