



Acts of Faith

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



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True life in Christ: (excerpts from April's 2026 Lutheran Witness)

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly," says our Lord (John 10:10).

In our culture of death, Christians talk a lot about life and its protection. As we do so, it is important that we can answer the questions: What is life? Why does it matter? Is it simply a beating heart and brain activity?

During Eastertide, we sing joyfully and triumphantly of our Lord, who rose again to life and swallowed up death forever. Easter reminds us, indeed, that true life is not just a beating heart. A human is more than just flesh and blood; vital to human life, as the Scriptures reveal, is having the breath or Spirit of life. In short, life is being in communion or union with God, the source of life, through the Spirit. As John records, Jesus taught that life means communion with true God, through the Spirit who creates and nurtures faith. *"All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."* (John 1:3-4).

Our culture of death is constantly shouting lies about life into our ears. There are subtle ways they can shape our own thinking. In Genesis 3:1, Satan enticed humanity to doubt God's authority and the Creator's good will by wrapping his lie in what appeared to be an honest question: *"Did God actually say?"* Every one of his lies thereafter is a simple repurposing of the same exact line. Faithful Lutherans, both past and present, have rightly denounced the many sins that debase human life: abortion, sexual and domestic abuse, assisted suicide, human trafficking. Not only does our church body speak against such things, but she also boldly and beautifully advocates for life and the preservation thereof from womb to tomb. With time, talent and treasure, many faithful Lutherans advocate for life from fertilization to natural death.

LCMS Lutherans are becoming well-trained in identifying and addressing the sins against human life that are utterly shocking. God be praised! The LCMS is unabashedly a *pro-life* church body. Yet Christians must keep vigilant, lest they fall prey to the same lies that secular culture has chewed on, swallowed and is still fueled by. Another of Satan's' lies is the temptation to view productivity as the thing that gives our life value and meaning, which often leaves the elderly feeling despair that their life no longer has meaning. Job asked *"Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter in soul, who long for death, but it comes not, and dig for it more than for hidden treasures?"* (Job 3:20-21). But, Christ gives purpose to life at every age. Christ turns our sorrows into joy, especially when we are elderly. The same Lord that created you and redeemed you, now promises to carry you. Jesus bore all our sins and griefs on the cross. He now carries us even through old age until the day when He will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

Younger people may face a similar crisis. The question of what we should do with our lives on earth. The Scriptures offer real direction for the Christian life. God's Word tells us who we are, makes us His own, and frees us to live in the newness of life. We have been baptized into Christ and united with Him in one body. *"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* (Gal. 2:20). We strive to follow His will, thankful and praising Him for all He has done and continues to do in and through us.

God created abundant life in the Garden of Eden. Man's fall into sin brought death into the world — and yet, as Scripture attests, over the centuries God has again and again brought streams of living water to His parched people, planted the seeds of His Word, and promised to His people an eternal city and a restored Garden. In this Easter season as you reflect upon our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world, may it bring you peace and joy.

May's Calendar

- May 03** **5th Sunday after Easter with Holy Communion**
Mite box collection
- May 05* LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 pm
- May 07 National Day of Prayer
- May 09 Letter Carriers Food Drive
- May 10** **6th Sunday after Easter with Holy Communion**
Mother's Day Observance
- May 12* LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 pm
- May 14** WOF mtg. 10:00 AM
Ascension Day Service 6:30 pm
- May 17** **7th Sunday after Easter with Holy Communion**
- May 18 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 pm
- May 21 Elders & Council Mtg. (6:30/7:00PM)
- May 24** **Pentecost with Holy Communion**
- May 25 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 pm
Memorial Day Observance
- May 31** **Holy Trinity Sunday with Holy Communion**

Worship Schedule
9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service



May 03	Kari Tavares	White
May 10	Marilyn Sturtevant	White
May 14	Mary Hahn	White
May 17	Mary Hahn	White
May 24	Carol Cook	Red
May 31	Leah Weber	White

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.

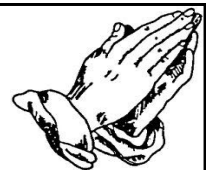
Our Faith family: Allison Leezer, Cari Bridgewater, Nancy Tudder, JoAnne Behnke, Peggy Faber, Bonnie Nuding, Nancy Gillespie, Melissa Newman, Randy Stockner, Carol Cook, and Betty Godke .

Friends: Lesa Griffin, Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, 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.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



Graduations: Do you have a child, grandchild, or Godchild graduating high school or college? We would like to celebrate them. Please send graduating information and their future plans to hahn.gary@comcast.net or leave a note with Pastor no later than May 24th.



Thanks to everyone who helped clean up and spruce up our campus. It sure looks better.



Birthdays

Mary Hahn	5/01
Jenny Cole	5/01
Nancy Gillespie	5/21
Louis "Chip" Wager	5/31



Faith's Ascension Day
Service is on
April 14th 6:30 PM

Baptism Dates

Melisa Carper	05/27
Eric Cervantez	05/28
Sophie Cervantez	05/29
Ethan Cole	05/26
Mary Hahn	05/22
Cheryl Snyder	05/30
Heather Weber	05/10
Rev. Paul Weber	05/16



Wedding Anniversaries

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

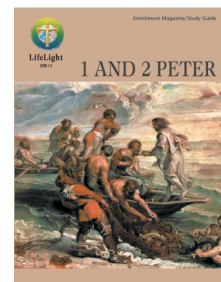
Women of Faith: The Women of Faith will meet on May 14th at 10:00 AM. Carol Cook is the hostess for the month. Please bring a can of non-cream soup for Hobo stew. The Bible study "Overflowing in Comfort" from the Spring Quarterly will be the program. All the ladies in our congregation and St. Paul's congregation are welcome to join with the WOF.

The LWML focus this month is on the Mission Grant No. 11 Gospel Help for Families in Crisis - Lutheran Family Service, Iowa | \$92,500. Funds from this grant will provide teams of LCMS pastors and licensed mental health therapists to bring help through in-person and virtual educational events, lead support groups, and provide individualized, Gospel-focused care. This help will be offered to the increasing number of families with children experiencing a crisis with gender identity confusion or transition, mental illness, suicide risk, or a history of these challenges to prevent alienation, separation, or loss. The LWML ladies thank the congregation for the generous support.

Mary Hahn and Cheryl Snyder attended the LWML CID District Convention on April 24-25, 2026 in Decatur, IL. The theme was "For the Lord shall be thine Everlasting Light" Isaiah 60:20.

The Monday LifeLight Bible Study continues with 1 & 2 Peter. We normally meet each Monday at 1:00 PM. The goal of LifeLight is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ. All are welcome to join in, even if you decline to do the home study. Anyone is welcome to sit in at any time.

Here we have two documents written by one who walked with Jesus. Peter was one of Jesus' closest companions and became a key leader of the early church. Peter sent these two letters to scattered believers to encourage them to continue to live faithfully despite rising persecution and hostility.



THANK YOU FOR THE
EASTER LILIES THAT
ADORNED OUR SANCTUARY



Monday May 25, 2026

St. Paul's and Faith Joint Council meeting: On April 18th Council members from St. Paul's Kewanee and Faith met together to discuss worship services during the coming summer when respective ministers are unavailable. The Rock Island Circuit has three ministry vacancies and no vicar assignments making substitutes scarce. Rev. Greiser has military obligations on two weekends in May (5/24 & 31) and two weekends in July (19 & 26). They are expecting their fifth child in June. Pastor Weber will be gone on Father's Day, June 21st, and would like a couple other vacation days this year. After discussions, it was mutually agreed on that during Rev. Greiser's absence the St. Paul's congregation is invited to attend Sunday service at Faith, and in Pastor Weber's absence, Faith members are invited to attend worship at St. Paul's.

To accommodate both congregations, service times will remain at 9:00 AM. Beginning on Trinity Sunday, May 31st, Faith will begin using the one year lectionary that St. Paul's currently is using. St. Paul's now have individual glasses available for communing visitors. The common cup is available at both locations. We look forward to worshipping our Lord together with our friends from St. Paul's again.

St. Paul's is planning a VBS program for children 4-12 years of age on June 17 thru June 19th, from 9:00 AM until Noon. Faith family members are invited to enroll their children, and grandchildren, There is no cost. St. Paul's members were invited to attend LifeLight Bible Study on Mondays at Faith and our Ascension Day service on May 14th at 6:30 PM. The possibility of a joint choir during one of the services was discussed.

April Treasurer's Report: Sue handed out the April treasurer's report as of 4/16/26. The General Fund balance is \$40,315.87, the Memorial/Dedicated fund balance is \$11,423.84 for a total of \$51,739.71. The Church Extension balance (mortgage) is \$89,917.53. The March 2026 expenses totaled \$8,412.36 and the income received was \$10,952.56. The YTD Net is -\$604.37.

Forged by Fire Services is a faith based nonprofit disaster relief organization dedicated to feeding and supporting victims, volunteers, and fire first responders, during natural disasters.

Forged by Fire seeks partnerships with LWML Societies to help create Courageous Crosses. The crosses provide hope and comfort to those individuals recovering from disasters and those facing food insecurity issues.

The cross symbolizes the confidence we all have in our loving Savior, Jesus Christ. We trust in what He has accomplished for us. He will provide for all of our needs. These crosses are a great reminder of the unwavering love of Jesus—that He is with you every step of your journey and He promises to never leave you or forsake you.

Faith's WOF secured materials and constructed 99 Courageous Crosses at their April meeting. They will send to Forged By Fire Ministries. At any one deployment FBFM serves anywhere from 500 to 1,000 meals a day. That means they serve 300 to 500 people.



Q: What is the difference between the terms "Apostle" and "Disciple"?

A: A disciple can be commonly referred to as a student who adheres to a teacher (or a school of thought). In the New Testament, references to disciples are to Jesus' followers. Apostles, on the other hand, carry a specific mandate to spread the teachings they have received. Christ selected the common term (apostle) and magnified it when He called a specific group of men to serve as His Apostles. Apostleship is a unique office held by the few men appointed directly by Christ Himself. He commissioned them to establish the testimony of the gospel in the church, and their ministry carried His divine authority. Rejecting an Apostle was like rejecting Jesus Himself.

On Saturday, May 9th, letter carriers in Kewanee and across the country will head out on their routes to collect donations of non-perishable food items to benefit local food pantries. Simply leave your donation of non-perishable food in a bag near your mailbox on the second Saturday in May, and your letter carrier and the pantry will do the rest.

