



Acts of Faith

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



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Thanksgiving is a holiday with an interesting history. We usually think of the Pilgrims and Native Americans sitting down at a table together to celebrate weathering a season of hardship. But Thanksgiving didn't become a national holiday until more than 200 years later.

On October 3, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln wrote: *"I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners, or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation, and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility, and union."*

What is most interesting about this is the timing. In July 1863 the Battle of Gettysburg was fought. It was a devastating battle where many men were killed or seriously injured. Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was delivered at the dedication of the national cemetery on the battlefield on November 19, 1863, a few days before the first celebration of Thanksgiving as a national holiday. The proximity of these dates and their impact are profound. He gave thanks in the shadow of a horrible battle and the dedication of the cemetery connected to it. President Lincoln demonstrated a deep faith in God as he led our country through one of our darkest periods. His model is a testimony to truth that a spirit of thanksgiving is not tied to circumstances. A thankful spirit is a fruit of faith.

Our prayer is that we might receive the blessing of a thankful spirit no matter what circumstances we are facing. We are given this gift as we remember that our heavenly Father deeply loves us and wants good things for us. He is actively involved in transforming what can be crippling circumstances into reasons for rejoicing. Lord God, You are the One who blesses us with all good things, and You are the One who transforms all the circumstances of our lives. Bless us now with hearts that trust You, especially when we are in dark places. Send us Your Holy Spirit that we might see with the eyes of faith and not with the eyes of the world. Your love for us is more than we can take in, but help us to take in that which draws us close to You and helps us to love each other. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen. Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann-Northwest District President
God bless you with a blessed thanksgiving celebration.



Q: What is a Deaconess?

A: LCMS Deaconesses are women who are professional church workers trained to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of works of mercy, spiritual care, and teaching of the Christian faith. The term "Deaconess" comes from the Greek word "diakonos", which means "servant." Phoebe, named in Rom. 16:1-2, was a helper to Paul and others. She is often considered the first Deaconess.

Deaconesses serve primarily in three settings: 1. Missions (both foreign and domestic) 2. Congregations (teaching, visiting the sick and imprisoned, or serving in family or another caring ministry) 3. Institutions (serving as chaplains in hospitals, prisons, retirement communities, and facilities that care for people with developmental disabilities.)

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



Nov. 03 Leah Weber (White)
 Nov. 10 Sharon Larson (Green)
 Nov. 17 Marilyn Sturtevant (Green)
 Nov. 24 Kari Tavares (White)

November's Calendar

Nov. 01 All Saints' Day
 Nov. 03 All Saints' Observance Sunday
Worship with Holy Communion
 Daylight Saving Time ends
 Nov. 04 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
 Nov. 05 Election Day
 Nov. 10 25th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship with Holy Communion
 Nov. 11 Veterans Day Observance
 Nov. 14 WOF Meeting 10:00AM
 Nov. 17 26th Sunday after Pentecost
Worship with Holy Communion
 Nov. 21 Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM
 Church Council 7:00 PM
 Nov. 24 Last Sunday of Church Year
Worship with Holy Communion
 Nov. 28 Observance of Thanksgiving Day

ELDER'S LIST:

Kevin Hull: 309-852-0801
 Ron Larson: 309-853-5111
 Ted Sturtevant: 309-853-8203
 Gary Hahn 309-854-2203

USHER'S LIST

1st Sunday: Ted Sturtevant
 2nd Sunday: Nick Phillips
 3rd Sunday: Gary Hahn
 4th Sunday: Kevin Hull
 5th Sunday: Jim Cook

Portals of Prayer devotional booklets are now available for the final quarter of the year (October -December) in small, medium, and large sizes. Please pick up a copy for yourself and others you might know .

Approach this election with prayer, discernment, and a commitment to biblical principles. Our vote is not just a political act, but a spiritual one. Voting is not merely a civic duty, but also an opportunity to exercise responsible Christian stewardship.



Election Prayer: *Lord, grant peace throughout the 2024 General Election process and protect our state and nation against violence and unrest. Protect our polling places (schools, churches, and community centers). Protect poll workers and keep them honest and vigilant. Lord, we ask that voters recognize the truth of Psalm 139: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." (vs. 13-14). In Jesus name. Amen.*

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, and Vanda Hallock.

Friends: Lacey Hammonds, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, Art Rosencarter, 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.

Our World: Citizens of and those in Ukraine and Israel that peace may come to these lands.



Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



Birthdays

November 3 Casidy Blume
 November 16 Linda Jacobs
 November 23 Micah Tavares
 November 26 Lorie Elgin
 November 30 Kylee Conlin

Wedding Anniversaries

November 22 Paul and Janet Estes

Baptism Dates

Jemma Cade	11/25
Madison Carpenter	11/23
Tiffany Carpenter	11/12
Myrene Carper	11/18
Olive Nimrick	11/11
Lorie Elgin	11/06
Gary Hahn	11/17
Sandra Heinrich	11/16
Kamdyn Hicks	11/25
Kevin Hull	11/06
Jaxson Johnson	11/14
Tinsley Newman	11/09
Andrew Peterson	11/14
Taylor Talbot	11/17



Women of Faith: The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, **November 14** at 10:00 a.m. with a Travel Log program. Bring a brown bag lunch; a business meeting will follow lunch. Carol Cook is the hostess.

This month WOF are collecting your mites to support Mission Grant, Tanzania Children's Home. Children born in the Mwadui region of Tanzania have hope for a better life because of the orphanage and school established by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. The school will protect them from witch doctors who sell charms and amulets made from the amputated arms or hands of albino children. The grant money will help to buy a bus to transport the children and provide care for the children. We thank you for your mites and for your prayers for Tanzania Children's Home.

The ladies made 19 pies for the Oktoberfest Dinner. All were delicious. Thank you for your service.

Change Your Clocks Back & Smoke Alarm Batteries

DST ends on Nov. 3rd
 Turn your clocks back one hour at 2:00 a.m.

FALL BACK



On November 3rd we will remember those dear souls that departed this earth last year.

J. Wayne Becker
 James Nuding

Please inform Pastor of anyone else you want remembered.



Oktoberfest Dinner: Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Oktoberfest dinner last month. We served over 200 people and \$2932 was raised. We enjoyed lots of good food and fellowship.

We had lots of wonderful and tasty donated desserts to compliment the supper. Thank to all those members for your service to the church. Proceeds from this Thrivent Financial team activity will be used to assist Seminary student Joshua Bieri (\$500), and to support the Lutheran Church of Pakistan, a LCMS/Asian mission,(\$500). The remainder will be used for maintenance of our building.

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.

Church Council Report: The treasurer's report was distributed and Sue reported that the general fund has \$51,721.26 the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$14,809.57 for a total of \$66,630.83. The church extension fund balance is \$119,899.83.

Trustees will be researching information concerning an installation of solar panels to reduce the church's energy costs.

The door donation taken to assist the Zion-Taylor Ridge congregation with an angel tree program for the *Prison Fellowship Ministries* totaled \$125.

Council approved an Advent Food Drive for the Kewanee Food Pantry during December as *Operation Thanksgiving 2024*. This will be a Thrivent team activity.

Shallow Thankfulness: Can you imagine a Thanksgiving dinner without turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie? I know I can't! To not have these on the menu, or worse, to run out of them with the family around the table, would be a culinary sin of epic proportions. An attempt to serve bratwurst and hamburgers in place of the standard fare would ring hollow and seem totally inappropriate and out of place. It isn't that the food would be bad; brats and burgers are pretty tasty. But not for Thanksgiving — they just don't go together!

In the stewardship hymn, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788), we turn our attention to verse three to draw attention to some things that do not go along with faithful, thankful stewardship.

"Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise ..." We see this often with small children. They greedily snatch the candy out of a grandparent's hand, savagely destroy the wrapper, and attempt to stuff the entire delicacy in their mouth in one bite, only to have a parent say, "Tell grandma thank you." This is followed by the pro forma thanks that is uttered between chocolate chews. It isn't really thankfulness; it is simply checking a box to keep mom or dad off their backs. We never really outgrow this either. Our shallow thankfulness takes the form of feigned humility when praise is being offered. We are thankful that our admirers noticed and called us out: "Look at me! Aren't I special?" No thought at all is given to the fact that the Lord was the One who gave us the ability and opportunity for accomplishment. Our false blush is really only masking our selfish, credit-seeking gain. Once again, we find ourselves idolatrously thanking ourselves.

"For words that speak at variance with deeds ..." What carries more weight: words or action? The steward who gives voice to the Gospel in the Divine Service but then lives like a pagan in the world does great damage, not only to others but to the Gospel itself! This is the consequence of failed stewardship. It is idolatry that separates the steward from the Lord. Worse yet, it also impacts others negatively. When the failed steward is the reference point outside the Christian community, there are those who want no part of being Christian or following the Christ they claim. We see this play out in the impact of overt political activity among Christians based on governing policy as opposed to fidelity to the Word of God. When our lips and our lives are out of sync, like what used to happen with old movie projectors, the impact isn't funny — it obscures the Gospel!

"Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways unmindful of a broken brother's need ..." Our creature comforts often become an obstacle to faithful stewardship. This is true of both individual and corporate stewardship. Financial stewardship is often limited by our desire to be comfortable and have the latest toys and gadgets. Congregational stewardship is often limited by the desire to focus on what is best for the congregation as opposed to how resources might be best stewarded to reach the community with the Gospel. When we see someone in need, or broken by the world, we often look at them as freeloaders. We admonish them to get a job. We insist that they learn our language, learn our customs, and make them their own. But this gets in the way of seeing every human being the way that Jesus sees them. Remember, that broken person is one for whom Jesus went to the cross to die and rise. When we are unmindful of these needs, our shallow thankfulness also stands in the way of the Gospel.

This stanza reminds us of the challenge we face. Our hearts are master idol-makers. Our shallow thankfulness threatens our souls and hinders others from seeing Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Stewardship is serious business. It is a task for which we were created. In our sinful failings, we are never relieved of these duties. In our Baptism, we are restored to be stewards of the Gospel. Our faithful stewardship is all about that Gospel.

Forgive us when our thanks are shallow, O Lord! In this month of Thanksgiving, grant us the grace to offer heaping helpings of this stewardship so that others may see Jesus. LCMS Stewardship 11/2024