



# Acts of Faith

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



November 2024

Volume 25 Issue 11

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**Make thanks a priority:** The Holy Gospel from Luke 17, about the cleansing of the lepers, is the assigned Gospel for the Day of Thanksgiving. And that makes sense. Jesus' words about the one who came back to give thanks make it a natural for that occasion. *"Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."* Luke 17:19.

This gospel finds Jesus in a border place, the region between Samaria and Galilee. There, he is approached by people who live across a different kind of border: ten lepers, whose illness made them ritually unclean and outcasts from society. Without getting too close, without crossing the boundary that separates them from Jesus, they beg him for help. Jesus tells the ten to go show themselves to the priests. As they go to do as Jesus instructed, they are cleansed, healed of their ailment.

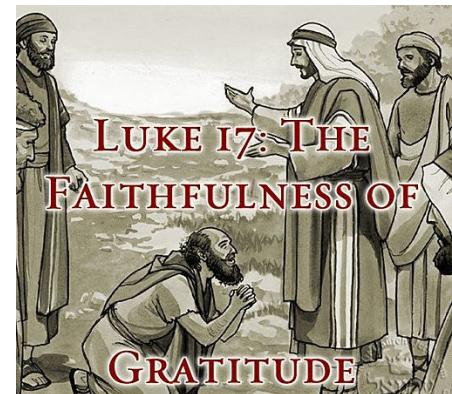
Of the ten, only one turns back, praising God. He kneels at Jesus' feet. And that one is a Samaritan. For Jesus and other Jews of his time, Samaritans weren't just a different group; they were enemies. We're so used to the phrase "Good Samaritan" that we forget how outrageous that would have sounded to Jesus' contemporaries. A Samaritan was anything but good. All ten, when Jesus sends them away, follow his instructions at once. Luke is very concise. Jesus says "Go..." And... they went. This proves that they all have faith in Jesus. All ten lepers believe that Jesus can help them and all ten are right, they are all healed, made whole again.

So what lesson is there in that one leper, the Samaritan, who turned back? We don't know why he decided to return to Jesus. All we know is that he saw that he was healed, and determined his official clean bill of health was less important and of lower priority; he turned right around and went back to the one who had healed him. The Samaritan, a former leper praises God all the way to the feet of Jesus. He prioritized thanking God for this gift of cleansing, even though he wasn't even Jewish. A lesson in the Samaritan leper is he recognizes that Jesus is something more than just a prophet. He is not just healed, but transformed by his encounter with Jesus.

There are many things for which we ask God, big and small. We pray for calm in the midst of stress, we pray for comfort when we are afraid. Sometimes, we cry out for healing like the lepers in this story. "Jesus, have mercy on us!" We pray with the hope and faith that God will hear us, that Jesus will have an answer for us. Martin Luther in his explanation of the first Article of the Apostles Creed writes, "All this God does only because He is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

When God in His mercy helps us, and heals us or transforms us, do we go right along with our daily lives? Or do we drop everything to go back to God in praise and thanksgiving? This Thanksgiving and every day express your gratitude for the many things God has done for us. We ought to make thanks to God and others one of our highest priorities. From God we receive everything we need for body and life, here and through eternity. Often we don't thank those around us who serve us, help us, lead us, and direct us. We have things to do. We've got to get to the priests; we don't have time to go back for thanksgiving.

***Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Ps. 111: 1***



<b>November's Calendar</b>		
Nov. 01	<b>All Saints' Day</b>	
<b>Nov. 02</b>	<b>All Saints' Observance Sunday</b> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b> Daylight Saving Time ends	
Nov. 03	LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM	
Nov. 06	WOF Meeting 10:00AM	
<b>Nov. 09</b>	<b>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>	
Nov. 10	LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM	
Nov. 11	Veterans Day Observance	
<b>Nov. 16</b>	<b>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</b> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>	
Nov. 17	LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM	
Nov. 20	Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM	
<b>Nov. 23</b>	<b>Last Sunday of Church Year</b> <b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>	
Nov. 24	LifeLight Bible Study Noon	
Nov. 27	Observance of Thanksgiving Day No service	
<b>Nov. 30</b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b>	



Nov. 02	Carol Cook	(White)
Nov. 09	Leah Weber	(Green)
Nov. 16	Kari Tavares	(Green)
Nov. 23	Marilyn Sturtevant	(Green)
Nov. 30	Mary Hahn	(Blue)

**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: William Croegaert  
5th Sunday: Jim Cook

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

**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, Nancy Gillespie, Melissa Newman, Peggy Faber, Bonnie Nuding, Randy Stockner, and Betty Godke.

**Friends:** Lisa Griffin, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, Jacob Nimrick, Rev. Cecil Murdock, 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***



**Oktoberfest Dinner:** Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Oktoberfest dinner last month. We served over 210 people and \$2757 was raised. We enjoyed lots of good food and fellowship. Apologies to those with tickets when we ran out of food. More of everything will be prepared next year.

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 the remainder will be used for elevator maintenance expenses.





## Birthdays

November 3 Cassidy Blume  
 November 16 Linda Jacobs  
 November 18 Spencer Clapper  
 November 20 Maggie Gillespie  
 November 23 Micah Tavares  
 November 26 Lorie Elgin  
 November 30 Kylee Conlin

## Wedding Anniversaries

November 22 Paul and Janet Estes

## Baptism Dates

Kelly Brants	11/18	Andrew Peterson	11/14
Jemma Cade	11/25	Taylor Talbot	11/17
Madison Carpenter	11/23	Maggie Gillespie	11/08
Tiffany Carpenter	11/12	Yancy Gillespie	11/08
Myrene Carper	11/18	Marlin Gillespie	11/08
Olive Nimrick	11/11	Larry Gillespie	11/08
Lorie Elgin	11/06		
Gary Hahn	11/17		
Sandra Heinrich	11/16		
Kamdyn Hicks	11/25		
Kevin Hull	11/06		
Jaxson Johnson	11/14		
June Leezer	11/06		
Tinsley Newman	11/09		



**Women of Faith:** The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, **November 6** at 10:00 a.m. with a program by Sue Cervantez on her trip to Paris, France. Bring a brown bag lunch; a business meeting will follow lunch. Jeri Bye is the hostess.

This month WOF are collecting your mites to support Mission Grant#4 LWML "The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers — LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S. — \$100,000"

God gives His church pastors and church workers for the sake of the Gospel. There is now a critical need for pastors, teachers, and commissioned church workers in our synod. Set Apart to Serve" (SAS) is an initiative by the LCMS aimed at recruiting and supporting individuals in full time church work vocations. SAS encourages young people to consider church work vocations primarily through their continued and faithful involvement with their home congregation. This LWML grant will support this program by funding resources, staffing, along with travel and presentations expenses associated with SAS. The ladies thank you for your support with mites.



Our brother in Christ Glen R. Godke, 93, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Friday, October 17th, 2025 surrounded by his family. Funeral services were at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, October 23, at Faith Lutheran Church, Kewanee, IL with visitation from noon to 1:00 p.m. prior to service at the church. Interment was at the Pleasant View Cemetery.

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful"*  
*Hebrews 10:23*



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



**All Saints' Day** celebrates all faithful followers of Jesus throughout church history. It's a feast day remembering those who have gone before us, honoring their lives and faithfulness. This year we remember **Vanda Hollock** and **Glen Godke**.

**Please inform Pastor of anyone else you want remembered.**

**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 use a prayer request, place in an envelope, and leave it in the office or hand it to Pastor. Prayer may be public or private. Pray always.

**Church Council Report:** The treasurer's report was distributed showing that the general fund has \$39,899.94 and the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$9,412.19 for a total of \$49,312.13. The church extension fund balance is \$99,461.76. Annual expenses exceed income by almost \$20,000. The proceeds from Oktoberfest were \$ 2,757.00.

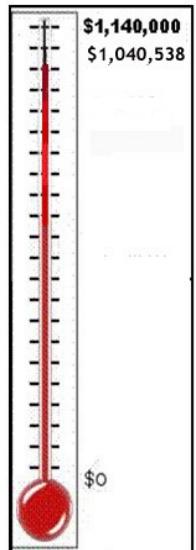
Pastor will conduct three Advent services this December on Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m.

Kari informed that the final elevator inspection was done on October 8<sup>th</sup> and PASSED. She has applied for a State of Illinois certification. We received an email quote from Getz for the 5-year sprinkler system testing. The quote was for \$3,851.3 but includes some charges that has already been corrected.

Bill thanked Gary and the LWML ladies for covering the service on Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> when Pastor was gone and those who hosted the luncheon after Glen's funeral service.

Ted will contact contractors about repairing the ceiling along the north side of the sanctuary. A possible sponsor to cover these repair costs has been identified.

Council approved an Advent Food Drive for the Kewanee Food Pantry during December as *Operation Thanksgiving 2025*. This will be a Thrivent team activity.



**Q.** Is the Lutheran Church short on saints?

**A.** The Lutheran listing, as represented by the saints included in the table of "Feasts and Festivals" and the list of "Commemorations" in Lutheran Service Book, is not that extensive. The Lutheran Church is certainly not "short on saints" for, in the wider sense, we are all saints together by God's grace through the working of the Holy Spirit. In the *Apostles' Creed* we confess to our belief in "the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints." November, the "thankful" month, we honor these saints as examples of those in whom the saving work of Jesus Christ has been made manifest to the glory of His holy name and to the praise of His grace and mercy.



## 2025 OKTOBERFEST IN PICTURES

Upper left: Dining in the fellowship hall.

Upper right: Grill crew brown the bratwurst.

Left: Sue and Leah served from the kitchen.

"If I had to travel, I would go through no place more eagerly than Swabia and Bavaria, for the people are friendly and obliging, accommodate strangers, and even approach strangers and travelers, giving people amiable service and good provisions for their money." Martin Luther