



Acts of Faith

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



October 2024

Volume 24 Issue 10

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“The Singing Church” : Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.” Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

“Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
that shows Your message ever new and near.”

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners fixed upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

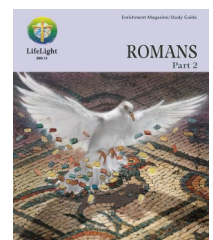
Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry 10/2024

LifeLight Bible Study meets on Mondays starting at 1:00 PM. This study will continue with Part 2 of Romans. Everyone is invited to join us when possible. In Romans Paul instructs us how to live a life in Jesus Christ’s spirit and preparing for His return.



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



Oct. 6	Sharon Larson (Green)
Oct. 13	Marilyn Sturtevant (Green)
Oct. 20	Kari Tavares (Green)
Oct. 27	Leah Weber (Red)

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

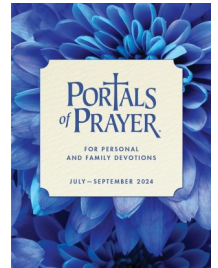
1st Sunday:	Ted Sturtevant
2nd Sunday:	Nick Phillips
3rd Sunday:	Gary Hahn
4th Sunday:	Kevin Hull
5th Sunday:	Jim Cook

October's Calendar

Pastor Appreciation Month

Oct. 03	WOF Mtg. 9:00AM
Oct. 06	20th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion LWML Sunday
Oct. 07	LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
Oct. 09	Oktoberfest Food Preparations 9:00 am
Oct. 10	Oktoberfest Preparations 9:00-Noon Dinner 4:30-6:30 PM
Oct. 13	21th Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion
Oct. 14	LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
Oct. 17	Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM
Oct. 20	22nd Sunday after Pentecost (Green) Worship with Holy Communion
Oct. 21	LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
Oct. 27	Reformation Sunday Observance Worship with Holy Communion (Red)
Oct. 28	LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
Oct. 31	Reformation Day Halloween Observance

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 .



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 that peace may come to this land.



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.



Birthdays

- October 2 Jane Davis
- October 8 Ted Sturtevant
- October 11 Michael Leezer
- October 19 Judy Bridgewater
- October 20 Myrene Carper
- October 20 Sharon Larson
- October 22 Paul Estes
- October 27 Sandra Heinrich
- October 28 Gary Hahn
- October 30 Tinsley Newman
- October 31 James Cook

Baptism Dates

- LaJean Breedlove 10/01
- Sara Nimrick 10/01
- Erin Tavares 10/04
- Cade Knox 10/11



Wedding Anniversaries

- October 02 William and Claudia Croegaert (53)
- October 18 Ronald and Sharon Larson (38)



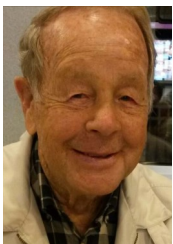
Women of Faith: The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, **October 3rd**, at 9:00AM to bake pies for the Oktoberfest dinner. Bring a brown bag lunch; a business meeting will follow lunch. Marilyn is the hostess.

This month we are collecting your mites to support Mission Grant No. 20 to Lutheran Hour Ministries-Kazakhstan, "Sharing Christ to Women and Children of Kazakhstan," for \$100,000, to be used for direct outreach in local churches, holistic ministry, digital outreach through Thred.asia, and printed Christian resources to reach the unchurched in Kazakhstan where the proclamation of the Gospel is difficult due to harassment by non-Christian religious authorities and unbelieving family members. Kazakhstan is a large landlocked country in central Asia and a former member of the USSR. The population of 20,086,000 is 70% Muslim and about 26% Christians. Thank you for your support.

On September 10, Cheryl and Mary took the eight blankets that WOF had made, along with some donated crocheted items, to Phil's Friends organization in Wheaton, Illinois. Here they met Phil and spent a couple hours volunteering for the group. They were coloring greeting cards for cancer patients. They brought some cards back for the WOF to color and return.



Faith's Oktoberfest Dinner is scheduled for Thursday, October 10 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Tickets are available in the church office. Please try to sell them at \$12.00 per person. Meal includes bratwurst sandwich, homemade German potato salad, sauerkraut, and dessert. Take out or eat-in is available downstairs. We expect a large crowd so help is requested for preparation on 10/09 and 10/10 at 9:00 am and at serving times. Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex area. We are also looking for donated pies, fruit pies are preferable.



Our sympathies and prayers are extended to the family of **James Nuding**, 91, who died on September 25th at Allure of Prophetstown, IL. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, October 1, at Faith Lutheran Church in Kewanee with Pastor Paul Weber officiating. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the services at the church.

"Blessed rather are those who hear the Word of God and keep it." Luke 11:28

Faith That Shines Through In The Culture - Hall Of Tyrannus 2024: A seminar is hosted by Christ Lutheran Church, 311 Hersey Road, Normal, IL and presented by Rev. Alfonso Espinosa on Saturday, October 9, 2024. Program runs from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Cost is \$15.00 per person and includes refreshments and lunch. Registration at <https://www.christlutherannormal.org/events-announcements>. Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa, is senior pastor at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Irvine, CA and author of books, "Faith That Sees Through The Culture" (2018), "Faith That Engages the Culture" (2021), and "Faith That Shines In The Culture" (2023) (this seminar will be based around the latter book of the same name).

Church Council Report: The treasurer’s report was distributed and Sue reported that the general fund has \$54,714.44 the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$14,609.57 for a total of \$69,624.01. The church extension fund balance is \$121,196.76. Sue informed that the new speaker system bill was paid out of the memorial fund with the designated money from the Godke’s.

Pastor Weber informed us that Rev. Gary Wright from Zion- Hampton has received a call for a vacancy in Southern Illinois and is prayerfully in consideration. Pastor Weber continues his home visits and also intends to make a visit to the vacancy Pastor at St. Paul’s.

A motion was approved for the Oktoberfest proceeds to be designated as follows: seminary student Joshua Beiri - \$500.00 and the Lutheran Confessional Church of Pakistan mission \$500.00, with the balance to be applied to the general fund for repairs.

Trustees will be reviewing the ceiling problem on the north side of the Nave to determine a resolution and get estimates for repairs.

Council approved a door donation be taken to assist the Zion-Taylor Ridge congregation with an angel tree program for the *Prison Fellowship Ministries*. Prisoners sign up in summer with the chaplain at their prison for churches to purchase a Christmas present. Zion has 20 children’s names to purchase \$25.00 gifts each. A collection will be taken on Sept. 21st and 29th. Rev. Eddy and Zion will be responsible for purchasing, wrapping, and delivering the presents.

Reformation Day Thoughts: *“For by works of the law no human being will be justified in His sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.” The Law of God is good — it’s just that we sinners cannot save ourselves by the Law. Salvation is a free gift of God because that is the only way we could ever be saved. The Law shows us God’s holiness and thus our own sin. And now in Christ we can look at the Law and see it in a new light as well: as a guide for how to live a godly life in thanksgiving to God for His gracious forgiveness in Christ.”*

Romans 3:20



Q: Has The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod said anything officially on the celebration of Halloween?

A: The LCMS has not officially spoken to the observance of Halloween in any of its resolutions or statements. Opinions differ in our church regarding the appropriateness of Christians observing Halloween customs. On the one hand, we do not want to minimize the potential dangers of involvement with occultic symbols and practices. At the same time, we do not want to lay a burden of conscience on others in matters that lie in the area of Christian freedom and sound Christian judgment.

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★ Men do not reject the ★
★ Bible because it ★
★ contradicts itself, ★
★ but because it ★
★ contradicts them!! ★
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Recycling: Remember the church is still collecting aluminum cans for recycling. Please leave your bag of cans at the rear overhang for storage in the garage until we have enough to justify a trip to the Cities.



Thank You

Mary has secured a Thrivent Action Kit for the Oktoberfest Fundraiser. It includes \$250 to buy the bratwursts. Thanks Thrivent!

