



Acts of Faith

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



September 2024

Volume 24 Issue 9

Pastor Paul Weber

cell: 309-716-4759

email: chapemcc@gmail.com

A Time for Everything:

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.” Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

These words are full of wisdom about the way things work in this world. Every thing under Heaven has a appointed time, including people, buildings, emotions, possessions, and relationships. To expect unchanging happiness in a changing world, will end in disappointment. We mourn because things aren't like they used to be. Maybe were saddened because we think we aren't accomplishing as much as we should. This also includes our ministries in the Church. We need to recognize that ending certain programs, activities, and ministries may need to happen. These too are a part of “every matter under Heaven.” Ending some programs allow for new ones to be initiated. This includes a potential congregational partnership, which can be a blessing.

God makes many good promises to His people and His Church. In Matt. 16:8, He promises that the gate of Hell will not overcome His Church, but it will continue to grow and prosper. Christians can find great comfort in these promises. Yet, we should acknowledge that these promises are given to “the Church,” and not just a particular congregation. We hear how the Lutheran Church continues to grow and develop in other countries, while in America the number of professing Christians dwindle.

It's all about Jesus Christ! It's not about us, our convenience, our building, or even our congregation. We need to use the resources God has provided to promote His mission in the best method we can. Sometimes that means something has to end or change. When it does others congregations and ministries can be blessed.

So what do we as a congregation do now? First we must pray for the Lord's wisdom in our planning as we move forward. We must acknowledge that the culture and times have changed even in the last couple of decades and that our resources are limited without growth. Perhaps, we should now be contemplating about a congregational partnership for Faith, exploring all possible options. In attending the Small Church Summit meetings held by the Central and Southern Districts of Illinois, we have learned there are many other congregations planning this very situation, and that establishing good working partnerships takes effort and time, several years usually. It will be much easier if we are prepared before we “have to.” This may mean we will be a stronger position when a time for action to advance God's mission is here. Conversations and joint activities should begin with area congregations to establish an open channel for exploring partnership arrangements.

Then let us seize the favorable opportunity for every good purpose and work. This is given that we may always have something to do; none were sent into the world to be idle. The promises of God are to be the driving force for what we do. The Gospel should unite all LCMS members to work together for the sake of the Gospel and considering the coming of Christ on the Last Day.

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrod- den, through perils unknown. Give us faith to proceed with courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading and Your love is supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

September's Calendar

Worship Schedule
9:00 am, Sunday Worship Service
and 10:15 am Bible Study



Sept. 01	Sharon Larson	Green
Sept. 08	Marilyn Sturtevant	Green
Sept. 15	Kari Tavares	Green
Sept. 22	Leah Weber	Green
Sept. 29	Mary Hahn	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: Kevin Hull
- 5th Sunday: Jim Cook

- Sep. 01 **15th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)**
Worship with Holy Communion
- Sep. 02 Labor Day Observance
- Sep. 08 **16th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)**
Worship with Holy Communion
Grandparents Day
- Sep. 09 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Sep. 12 WOF Mtg. 10:00 AM
- Sep. 15 **17th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)**
Worship with Holy Communion
- Sep. 16 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Sep. 19 Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM
Church Council 7:00 PM
- Sep. 22 **18th Sunday after Pentecost (Green)**
Worship with Holy Communion
- Sep. 23 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM
- Sep. 29 **St. Michael Sunday (White)**
Worship No Holy Communion
- Sep. 30 LifeLight Bible Study 1:00 PM

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, Nancy Gillespie, Bonnie and Jim Nuding, and Vanda Hallock.

Friends: Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, Art Rosencarter, and all military personnel and first responders.

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.

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

Reminder...when admitted to a hospital, be sure to say you are a member of Faith Lutheran or have a family member or friend call the office or Pastor Weber. Otherwise, we may not be aware of your hospitalization. Thank you.



Birthdays

Joshua Carpenter	9/01
Ronald Larson	9/06
Bradley Cook	9/14
LaJean Breedlove	9/17
Donna Becker	9/18
Olive Nimrick	9/20
Christian Clapper	9/21
Mary Duncan	9/22
June Leezer	9/22
Justin Carper	9/24
Addyson Hicks	9/26
Theo Tavares	9/26
Jeri Bye	9/27

Baptism Dates

Bradley Cook	9/14
William Croegaert	9/14
Laura Heinrich	9/07
Stella Nimrick	9/18
Layne Stapel	9/20
Bradley Talbot	9/18
Kaitlyn Tudder	9/01
Mark Tudder	9/08
Ryan Tudder	9/01
Andrew Yarger	9/20



Wedding Anniversaries

Judy & Donald Bridgewater	9/13 (55)
Bonnie & Jim Nuding	9/18 (69)
Marilyn & Ted Sturtevant	9/18 (64)

Women of Faith: The Women of Faith will meet on September 12th at 10:00 AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. Jeri Bye is the hostess. Please bring a can of non-creamy soup to make hobo stew for lunch. The program will be a Bible study “For Such a Time as This,” a story of Joseph.

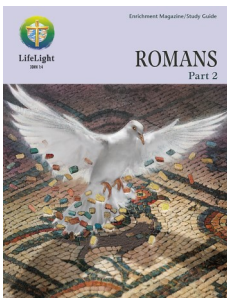
This month we focus on the Mission Grant No. 18. ZOE’S HOME Trinity Lutheran Church in Clinton, Missouri is the recipient of a \$75,000 LWML Mission Grant. The grant will ensure housing, food, clothing, transportation, life skills education, and staffing for Zoe’s Home. Zoe’s Home will enable women at risk of seeking an abortion or losing their parenting custody a place to overcome their current life situations.

We are **no longer** collecting used postage stamps or used plastic prescription bottles. Thank you for the congregation’s support in the past. Please recycle these items locally.



LWML Rock Island Zone Fall Rally will be held at St. Matthew’s Milan, IL on September 17, 2024. The theme is **“It is Time to Seek the Lord.”** Registration cost is \$15 and is due by September 10th. Our featured speaker will be Rev. Martin Eden speaking on missionary projects in Uganda. Gifts from the Heart include donations to the **Concordia Lutheran Academy**, Geneseo, and **Hiney Heros** (a diaper bank network) in Moline, IL. Checks may be made to Concordia Lutheran Academy and boxes of diapers left for the ladies to take to the rally. The congregation is invited to participate in this mission effort.

WOF ladies completed five additional blankets for the Phil’s Friends organization to provide comfort to those suffering from cancer. Pastor blessed all eight blankets praying for the recipients at the worship service on August 18th.

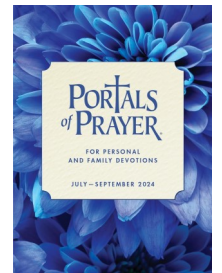


LifeLight Bible Study will resume on Mondays starting September 9th at 1:00 PM.

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.

Portals of Prayer: July-September 2024 *Portals of Prayer* are available in the Narthex for your use. Did you know there is a Portals of Prayer App for your smart phone or tablet? Share a copy with a friend.



Don’t forget to save those aluminum cans and drop them off at church for recycling.

Council Notes: The August treasurer's report shows that the general fund has \$51,116.25, the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$17,402.74 for a total of \$68,518.99. The church extension fund balance is \$122,444.65.

Sue reported that the CID/CEF board has adjusted up our interest rate to 6%, and lowered our monthly payment requirement. Council recommended we continue to pay the current budgeted monthly amount of \$1900.

Pastor reported the pastors of Southern and Central Illinois Districts will hold a joint meeting early in October.

Ted plans to again spray the grass and weeds in the lower drive and front parking lot when weather allows.

Bill presented two proposals from Byerly Sound Systems for new speaker systems that we have been using for the past two Sundays. One proposal is \$2525.78 for two speakers with stands and wiring as in our trial. The other proposal is an additional \$477.39 to conceal most of the wiring in the fellowship hall ceiling. Council questioned if the speakers could be relocated and mounted on the walls instead of the tripod stands. Bill will inquire about this. Council recommended the congregation purchase the new speakers and wiring with the monies in the dedicated fund.

Gary reported that Lifelight Bible study on the second part of Romans will start on September 9th.

Council approved the annual Oktoberfest fund raising dinner for October 10th with serving in the fellowship hall and carry-out service from the rear lower level drive. More information and ticket sales will be forthcoming in September. Dinner cost will remain at \$12.00 but extra sides will be \$3.00. Donations for drinks other than water will be requested.

Thank You: Joshua Bieri, a second year student at Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne, met with the council to thank us for the support we gave him from last year's Oktoberfest proceeds. Josh is from Taylor Ridge- Zion. He said the biggest challenge for him was balancing family life (his wife and three children) and studies at the age of 40. Since he does not have a bachelor's degree, he has applied for the Residential Alternate Route (AR) which will allow him to enter the ministry after his vicarage year without the awarding of an academic degree. There are currently 38 members in his class. We wish Josh God's blessings as he continues on the path to become a much needed servant of Christ in the LCMS.

Thank
you ❤️

Q: Who should I pray to? The Father? Jesus? The Holy Spirit? Or all three?

A: The default mode of most Christian prayers is to pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. We pray to the Father because Jesus told us to do so in the Lord's Prayer, "When you pray, say, Father..." (Luke 11:2). We typically end our prayers, "in Jesus' name we pray" because Jesus taught that "the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name." (John 15:16). It's a good model for prayer, but it's certainly not the only way we can pray. The bottom line is that God is clearly not concerned about using specific formulas when we pray.

And while there are no prayers in the Bible addressed directly to the Holy Spirit, it is clear that He also is intimately involved in the prayer life of every believer. Ephesians 2:18 perhaps summarizes it best, "For through Him (Jesus) we both have access to the Father by one Spirit."

Because we live in a time of great spiritual confusion, public prayers addressed simply to "God" generally may give the false impression that any God will do. But we believe that Jesus alone is "the way, the truth, and the life" and that no one comes to the Father except through Him. (John 14:6) Therefore, while it is certainly not required for God to hear your prayer, it may be wise today in public settings to be crystal clear about who you are praying to. We pray to the Father, in the name of Jesus His Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit.



Have a happy and safe Hog Festival Weekend in Kewanee