



Acts of Faith

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



September 2025

Volume 25 Issue 9

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In September our Gospel readings come from the Gospel of Luke. Luke's parables are presented as stories with layers of meaning, often challenging listeners to consider their relationship with God and neighbor. They highlight God's joy over the repentance of sinners and His active seeking of the lost revealing His grace and forgiveness to all.

Jesus often spoke in parables, which are, in their own way, puzzles, and puzzles are meant to be solved. From Sunday School we learned parables are often called "earthly stories with heavenly meanings." The stories that Jesus told are, in fact, the path to true knowledge. The world, for all its knowledge, doesn't have a clue to what life is all about. For all of our advances in technology, the basic questions remain: "Why are we here?" "What's life about?" Jesus' parables can be thought of as keys to open the door of life. Parables open our eyes to the mysteries and miracles that are happening even today, as God's Kingdom comes among us. Through parables, Jesus speaks about Himself, and He teaches us how to live and understand our lives as Christians. Jesus told His disciples that, "I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand" (Matt. 13:13). Does our Lord really want to conceal the Kingdom of God in puzzles? Of course not. If that were the case no one could be saved. Many of the parables were directed at the Pharisees and Temple leaders who were misleading the people for their own benefits and refused to accept Jesus for who He was, God's sent Messiah. They worshiped in a manner inconsistent with God's grace and mercy. Still today, these parables challenge the listener to step into the mind of Jesus and see things from His perspective, and find comfort in knowing God's love for us.



The Lost Sheep Luke 15:1-7

Like puzzles, some parables are easier to figure out than others. Sometimes we wish that all the parables came with an answer key at the back of the Bible. Yet, there is good that comes out of the struggle. Parables demand deep and meaningful thought; they encourage us to search Scripture. They invite all of us to discuss things that are of first and lasting importance. Through parables, our Lord reached out to the world, and He also drew the world into Himself and into the Church. Parables are intended for believers, and the Holy Spirit works through the Word to bring understanding and faith. Jesus' parables trace out the entire scriptural story, beginning with God's grace by which we are saved and judgement for those who put their faith in themselves, continuing through a Christian life as a receiver and giver of mercy, and taking us to the blessed hope of salvation through our loving Savior.

In an age of increasing biblical illiteracy, we would all do well to spend more time hearing and studying the stories told by Jesus Himself. In them lies the truth and mystery of the Kingdom of God. "He who has ears, let him hear" (Matt. 13:9). We have all we need for salvation in His Word, in Jesus. Yet, unbelievers find that boring and uninteresting. They think there must be more to do. Rather than accepting God's forgiveness in Christ, they long for how being a Christian can help them in this life today.

Gracious Father, whose Son revealed to us the true meaning of scripture in the forgiveness He won for us, guide our hearts into Your Word that we may attain life everlasting through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18

Worship Schedule
9:00 am, Sunday Worship Service

September's Calendar

Sept. 01	Labor Day Observance
Sept. 07	13th Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion
Sept. 08	Lifelight Bible Study 1:00PM
Sept. 11	WOF Mtg. 10:00 AM at church
Sept. 14	14th Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion
Sept. 15	Lifelight Bible Study 1:00PM
Sept. 18	Elders Mtg. 6:30 PM Church Council 7:00 PM
Sept. 21	15th Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion Circuit Forum 2:00pm St. Johns Geneseo
Sept. 22	Lifelight Bible Study 1:00PM
Sept. 28	16th Sunday after Pentecost with Holy communion
Sept. 29	Lifelight Bible Study 1:00PM



Sept. 07	Leah Weber	(Green)
Sept. 14	Mary Hahn	(Green)
Sept. 21	Kari Tavares	(Green)
Sept. 28	Carol Cook	(Green)

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, Nancy Gillespie, Bonnie Nuding, Melissa Neuman, and Betty and Glen Godke..

Friends: Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, Lisa Griffin, 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 form available on Narthex kiosk and 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.



Faith is still collecting used aluminum cans and miscellaneous metal to recycle. If you have a bag of cans leave them in the lower level near the back doors. Every little bit helps support spreading the Word of God in our community.



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
Marilyn & Ted Sturtevant	9/18 (65 yrs.)

Women of Faith: The Women of Faith will meet on September 11th at 10:00 AM. Donna Becker will be the hostess. Please bring a can of non-cream soup for Hobo Stew lunch. Mary will lead the third part of the Bible study "Experience the Joy-Then Share It." All ladies of Faith are welcome to join them.

This month Mites focuses on 2025 LWML CID Mission Grant #3 - CID Dollars for Missions- \$25,000 The LCMS CID "Dollars for Missions" project supports new church starts, mission-focused augmentations of existing ministries and established CID missions. Every year, the CID Board of Directors chooses one project at a time to fund up to a targeted amount. Thank you for your support and prayers for this Mission Outreach.



Women of Faith are collecting new items for Phil's Friends this month. They are given in the boxes to cancer patients and include the following: fuzzy socks, little packages of tissues, lip balm, playing cards, lotions, no fragrance, 6oz, puzzle books, mouth rinse 4-8 oz size (alcohol free), Toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste. Please place them in the box in the Narthex.

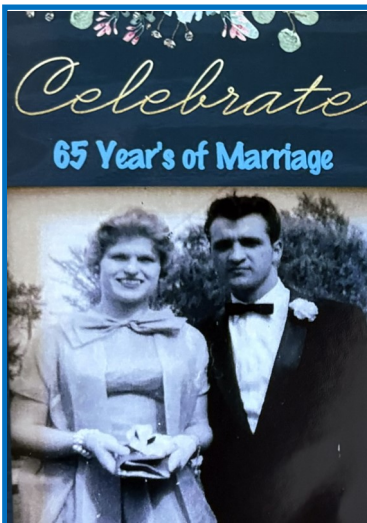
CID Dollars for Missions: First Project of 2025 - Update. CID is pleased to announce that sufficient funds have been received for the DFM project to replace insulation in the chancel ceiling at Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal. Originally estimated at \$10,000, this project will likely be completed at a lesser cost.

Bible Quiz: Which of the following were not Judges of Israel in the Old Testament?

Ehud, Enoch, Deborah, Gideon, Esther, Samson, Abimelech, Elon, Ginsburg, Othniel, and Samuel

Not sure, why not join the upcoming LifeLight series to learn more about the Judges in Israel's history. Answers on Page 4

Rock Island Circuit Forum: A R.I. Circuit forum is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Sunday, Sept. 21st at St. Johns Lutheran Church, Geneseo, IL. The business will be to select a pastoral and lay delegate for the LCMS Synodical Convention in 2026. Pastor Weber and Ted Sturtevant will be representing us at this meeting.



Daughters of Ted & Marilyn
invite you to an Open House
Sunday, August 31 1:00-4:00 pm
@ 1206 Mark St., Kewanee

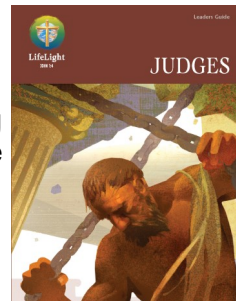
RSVP to kltavares21 @yahoo.com

Ted & Marilyn,
Hoping you recall all the memories, blessings, and joys that have filled your life together. You are blessed and a blessing to many. May the future bring more happiness and contentment to both of you. God's Blessings!

LifeLight Bible Study will resume on Mondays starting September 8th at 1:00 PM.

This study will be on the Book of Judges. Everyone is invited to join us when possible.

The study highlights 12 prominent judges in Israel explaining the period of the Judges and how it led to the monarchy.



Council Update: The August treasurer's report shows that the general fund has \$36,155.53, the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$17,491.04 for a total of \$53,646.57. The church extension fund balance is \$102,252.

A list of names to consider removing from Faith's membership roles by self exclusion was posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex, and reminders are in the Sunday worship folders. Elders are working on a letter to be sent to these names before the January 2026 voters' assembly. Gary reported that Lifelight Bible study on the book of Judges will start on September 8th. Ted was selected to be Faith's delegate at Circuit forum on 9/21.

Pastor reported he will conduct a memorial service for Vanda Hollock at the Buda Cemetery on August 31st. He is planning a vacation in October and will be gone the first two Sundays of the month. The LWML prayer service will be conducted on October 12. He is working on a guest preacher for October 5th. He is planning on setting up a youth Confirmation class study later this fall.

Ted reported crack filling has started on the parking lot. A solar security light has been purchased for the back lot area and will be installed when electrician with lift is available. The elevator was tested again on August 16th, but the electrical fire safety test failed to operate correctly. Amp Electric is estimating a cost to install a new fire panel and replacing the four smoke detectors including labor at \$4500.

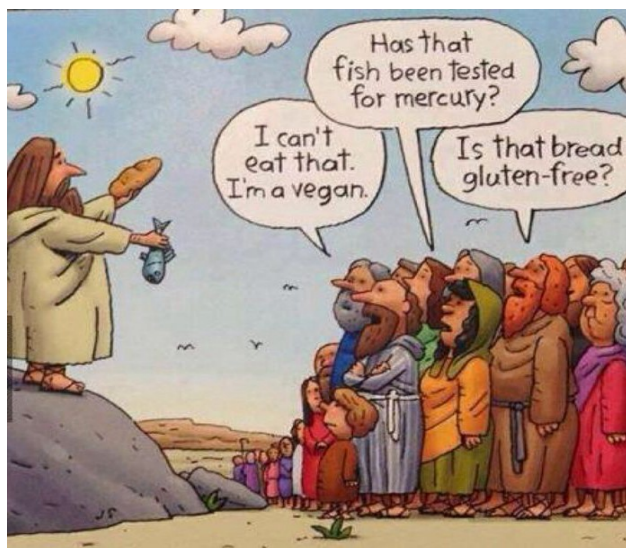
Council approved the annual Oktoberfest fund raising dinner for October 16th with serving in the fellowship hall and carry-out service from the rear lower level drive. More information and ticket sales will be forthcoming in September. Dinner cost will be determined after a new supplier of bratwurst is arranged. Wyant Meat Locker has closed.

Thank you to Sue and Joe Cervantez for trimming up landscaping around the property.



**Kewanee's
Hog Days
Festival
August 29-
Sept. 1st**

Happy
Labor Day
to all!



If Jesus came today!

Quiz Answers: Enoch, Esther, Ginsburg, and Samuel