



Acts of Faith

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



April 2024

Volume 2024 Issue 4

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“Change and decay in all around I see” (LSB 878:4)

Plants which died in the fall decay rapidly in spring. Human beings can die at any time of year, followed by our own decay. The ethical decay around us “stinks to high heaven.” Our sinful nature is so decayed that “I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want, that I do” (Rom. 7:8).

But God provides the antidote to decay. Psalm 16:10 expresses our Christian hope: “You will not leave my soul for sheol; You will not allow Your Holy One to see decay.” St. Paul (following St. Peter’s Pentecost sermon) explained this: “David, after assisting with the plan of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was added to his fathers and saw decay. But He whom God raised [Jesus Christ] did not see decay. So, it should be known to you, brothers, that through Him forgiveness of sins is announced to you; and from all things from which you could not be justified in the law of Moses, in Him everyone who believes is justified” (Acts 13:36-39).

The sinless Son of God “died for our sins” (1 Cor. 15:3) “and was raised for our justification” (Rom. 4:25), so that “everyone who believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). “In Him we live and move and exist” (Acts 17:28). “Oh, Thou who changest not, abide with me!”

— **Rev Mark Eddy**

1st Vice President - CID Board of Directors
Zion Lutheran Church, Taylor Ridge, Illinois

Whose Is It Anyway? If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state.

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it: You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ. This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

Christian Stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the church, in managing life and all of life’s resources for God’s purposes. (LCMS definition)

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

April's Calendar

- Apr. 07 2nd Sunday after Easter with Holy Communion**
Mite box collection
- Apr. 11 WOF mtg. 10:00 AM
- Apr. 14 3rd Sunday after Easter with Holy Communion**
- April 15-16 District Pastor's Conference, Springfield
- Apr. 17 Illinois March for Life Springfield Noon
- Apr. 21 4th Sunday after Easter with Holy Communion**
- Apr. 25 Elders & Council Mtg. (6:30/7:00PM)
- Apr. 26 Arbor Day
- Apr. 26/27 CID LWML Convention R.I.
- Apr. 28 5th Sunday after Easter with Holy Communion**



Apr. 07	Mary Hahn	White
Apr. 14	Sharon Larson	White
Apr. 21	Marilyn Sturtevant	White
Apr. 28	Kari Tavares	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



Our prayerful sympathies go out to Kim Tudder and her family upon the passing of Kim's mother, Margaret L. Camey, on February 22, 2024. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

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, Vanda Hallock, and Kevin Hull

Friends: Lacey Hammons, Jim Tudder, Rev. Burnell Eckardt, 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 their land.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



Illinois March for Life is on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. As last year, Trinity Lutheran Church in downtown Springfield (across the street from the state capitol building) will host a Matins service in the morning, before the rally and march, and a light lunch will be provided at a nominal cost. Precise times are being determined. This year, parking will be available to you downtown at the State House Inn, a block north of the capitol and near Trinity. However, please make plans now to carpool whenever possible.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)



Birthdays

April 1	Emma Cox
April 4	Lacey Leezer
April 4	Andrew Yarger
April 10	Heather Weber
April 12	Peggy Faber
April 14	Rev. Paul Weber
April 15	Lorie Townsend
April 16	Abigail Clapper
April 17	Vanda Hallock
April 21	Logan Hernandez
April 25	Kelly Gillespie
April 25	Larry Gillespie
April 28	Marlin Gillespie

Baptism Dates

Joy Hernandez Butler	Apr. 4
Julie Carpenter	Apr. 19
Abigail Clapper	Apr. 27
Mary Duncan	Apr. 21
Michael Estes	Apr. 16
Charles Heinrich	Apr. 23
Jaxson Hicks	Apr. 20
Marvin Newman	Apr. 20
Milton Stapel	Apr. 5
Kari Tavares	Apr. 1



Wedding Anniversaries

Peggy and Steven Faber	April 3
Sandra and Nicholas Phillips	April 8
Carol and James Cook	April 16

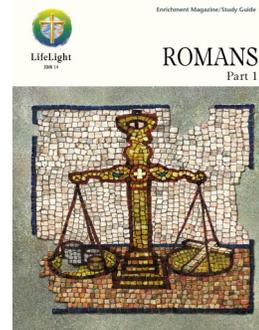
Women of Faith: The Women of Faith will meet on April 11th at 10:00 AM. Nancy Tudder is the hostess for the month. Please bring a can of non-cream soup for a hobo stew lunch. All the ladies in the congregation are welcome to join with the WOF for a Bible study led by Mary Hahn.

April's LWML Mission Grant is Expanding Gospel Proclamation Worldwide. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri is committed to addressing the concern of educating international students from countries that are unable to handle the significant financial obligation. This education grant will help to ensure that those living in every region of their nations will hear and learn the message of salvation through Christ. An LWML Mission Grant will provide scholarship aid for international students. Thank you for your support of the Mission Grants as we continue to spread God's love throughout the world.



Starting in April the LifeLight Bible Study on Mondays will review the Book of Romans, the first 7 of 16 chapters. As we progress through this 9-session study, we will see how those who are right with God by faith in His Son have been freed from the penalties of sin we deserve.

- Paul, Apostle of the Lord
- Guilty as Charged
- Citizenship through Faith
- Acquitted
- The Case of God v. Abraham
- Summation: Peace, Joy and Hope
- The Verdict: Life in Christ
- Buried and Raised with Christ
- Struggles and Deliverance



The goal of LifeLight is that through a regular program of in-depth personal and group study of Scripture, more and more Christian adults may grow in their personal faith in Jesus Christ. All are welcome to join in, even if you decline to do home study.

July 9-12, 2024 2024 Institute on Liturgy Preaching and Church Music Concordia University Seward, Nebraska

Thanks to a generous grant from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund, 35 full scholarships (early bird registration fee) are available for church musicians. For more information on the conference and application, see the CID website News and Events tab.



Central Illinois District Convention
April 26-27, 2024
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Rock Island, Illinois

Hosted by Rock Island Zone



Dollar for Missions (DFM) Update: After two months of 2024, CID has completed its first two DFM projects this year: 1) mileage money to support Pastor David Dunlop's Prison Ministry visits to Lincoln, Illinois every week (\$1,800) and 2) funding for St. John, Beardstown to purchase a few Spanish language hymnals (\$300). The current DFM project is for \$2,100 to provide Pastor Pablo Dominguez of Cristo Rey, East Moline honoraria as he conducts Spanish languages services and Bible classes in Beardstown twice a month for the second half of this year. Thanks to all CID churches participating in DFM! For more, see <https://www.cidlcms.org/ministry-a-dollar-for-missions.html>



The latest CID GatePost issue contains important information about decline in the District's capacity to continue supporting missions here and through the national Synod. Every CID congregation is receiving a letter from the District President, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary on this important subject. Watch for it!

Council News: The treasurer's report indicated the general fund has \$52,321.08, and the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$21,459.58 for a total of \$73,780.66. There are approximately \$5,500.00 in outstanding bills to be paid. The church extension fund balance is \$134,085.27. An interest rebate check in the amount of \$1,684.94 was received from CID-CEF. Council approved using the rebate amount and \$715.06 from the general fund (brat profit) for a total of \$2,400.00 be applied to reduce our mortgage.

A thank you and monetary gift of \$100.00 was received from Redeemer Lutheran Church in appreciation for the extra bulletin covers and inserts that we provide them weekly. Faith has received \$2045.00 in memorials for Wayne Becker. We thank the Becker family for thinking about Faith. The family requests that this money and any additional dollars be applied to the mortgage. A \$10.00 check in memory of Yvonne Wegener was received from the Noards of Geneseo.

Trustee reported that one our furnaces might have an issue. He will try to see what might be wrong so he can set up a service call. No response yet on the elevator inspection. A company in Peoria has offered a free sound system assessment. They will be contacted for an appointment in April. The council agreed to renew our electric provider contract with Homefield Electric for two years. The energy price has gone up nearly 60% above previous years.

Q: Why does Paul say that "Love" is the greatest gift from God?

A: Paul concludes his 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians with these words, "Faith, hope, and love abide; but the greatest of these is love." All three are spiritual gifts from our loving God. It's by faith from the Holy Spirit that we know Christ as our Savior. Now, we live in the hope that we will live eternal with Christ. One day that faith will be sight as we see God with our own eyes, and our hope will be fulfillment. Jesus' return signals the end of faith and hope, but love never ends. God's love continues forever. "God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." 1 John 4:16

***Death was proof that Jesus was human,
His resurrection was proof that He was God.***