



Acts of Faith

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



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Light of the World: Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

If you take yourself back to Jesus' day, light was the perfect illustration for Him to use because darkness was so prevalent. Today we have lights on nearly every street, houses have electricity with the flip of a switch, and we even have a pretty decent flashlight with the push of a button on our phones. None of that existed in Jesus' day. When the sun went down, you lit a candle; otherwise you would sit in utter darkness.

Even from the beginning of God's Creation, darkness described a world that was formless and void, empty before God's powerful Word brought order and beauty to it. But when you look closely, darkness and light are used extensively in Scripture, almost always describing belief and unbelief.

Light and darkness are among the most prominent themes in John's Gospel. The prophets of old foretold Jesus' coming as light of the world. It was the Father's will to send His beloved Son into a world cloaked in the darkness of sin and unbelief. As Mary brought forth her firstborn Son, the true light that was promised to come into the world dawned. A single, solitary child, born in the dark Judean countryside would bring life and immortality to light for all people.

Though we live in a time of illuminated screens and bright shining devices, ours is still a world that is cloaked in the darkness of sin and unbelief. Yet, as the Gospel is proclaimed in our congregations and announced in our homes, Jesus, the light of the world shines brightly for all. The Gospel is for all people because Jesus Christ came to be the light for all the world, for people from every nation. God's grace is universal, for all who believe in Jesus.



Our prayer is that Jesus Christ, the light of the world, will continue to brightly shine as the Gospel is preached and taught in churches and schools and as it is shared by individual Christians in their varied vocations at work, home and play. Into the darkness, God shines the light of Christ as we are sent out to reflect His light and love. Thanks be to God that people from every tribe, nation, language and people may find hope in our Savior Jesus and the light of His love.

Almighty God, You brought life and immortality to light. May the Light of Your Christ shine brightly in the world so that many more may be brought to saving faith and life with Him and His saints for all eternity; for You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Saints of Advent: St. Andrew, St. Nicholas, & St. Thomas. These are the Saints of Advent that will be our focus for our Thursday evening Advent services, December 4, 11, and 18 at 6:30 p.m. These three Saints have their "days" fall within the time of Advent. They teach us to prepare the way for the Lord, our Savior and King, Jesus Christ. Join us at Faith as we prepare are hearts for the coming of Christ, our Savior, and the Light of the World.

Worship Schedule
9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service

December's Calendar

Dec. 04	Advent Service 6:30 PM
Dec. 06	Decorating the Church 9:00 AM
Dec. 07	Second Sunday of Advent Worship with Holy Communion
Dec. 11	WOF Christmas Luncheon Noon Advent Service 6:30 PM
Dec. 14	Third Sunday of Advent Worship with Holy Communion
Dec. 18	Advent Service 6:30 PM Church Council 7:30 PM
Dec. 19	Lutheran Christmas Party 4:30-7:30 PM.
Dec. 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00AM Worship with Holy Communion
Dec. 24	Nativity of Our Lord 5:30 PM Candle Lighting Service with Holy Communion
Dec. 25	Festival of Christmas (No Service)
Dec. 28	First Sunday after Christmas Worship with Holy Communion
Dec. 31	New Years Eve (No Service)



Dec. 07	Carol Cook	Blue
Dec. 14	Leah Weber	Blue
Dec. 21	Kari Tavares	Blue
Dec. 24	Marilyn Sturtevant	White
Dec. 28	Mary Hahn	White

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 first quarter of the year (January-March) 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: Lesa Griffin, Jim Tudder, Steve Faber, 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



With Sympathy: Our sister in Christ Janet Estes, 69, went home to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on Tuesday, November 18th, 2025. Her funeral service was at Rux Funeral Home in Kewanee on November 26th. We offer our prayers for Paul and family at their loss.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 2 Thessalonians 2:16



Birthdays

Joy Hernandez Butler	12/02
Carol Cook	12/03
Sandra Phillips	12/05
Madison Carpenter	12/07
Lisa Huseby	12/08
Cheryl Snyder	12/13
Corey Tavares	12/13
Ashley Phillips	12/15
Ernst Heinrich	12/16
Nicholas Leezer	12/16
Kaitlin Johnson	12/22
Oliver Blume	12/27

Baptism Dates

Judy Bridgewater	12/19
Justin Carper	12/05
Jacob Hernandez	12/18
Linda Jacobs	12/23
Corey Tavaras	12/22
Micah Tavaras	12/23
Kim Tudder	12/29



Wedding Anniversaries

Lorie & Brian Elgin	12/13
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



Christmas poinsettias will once again be used to decorate our Sanctuary to enhance the beauty of God's house this Christmas. It is a wonderful opportunity to remember loved ones in memorial or tribute by dedicating one or more of these plants.

The price will be approximately \$10 each, and you may take them home following the December 28th worship service. Please sign the sheet in the Narthex by Sunday, December 14, if you would like to purchase one. You may use a general offering envelope, but please include your name, amount, and indicate that it is for the Poinsettia

Women of Faith: The ladies will hold their annual Christmas luncheon at noon on December 11th hosted by Carol Cook in the Church fellowship hall. Bring a dish to pass and a white elephant gift; a meat entrée will be provided along with Christmas games and fellowship. Let Mary or Carol know if you plan on attending.

In December your mites go for LWML Grant #5 which will allow Lutheran Braille Workers to produce and freely distribute approximately 10,000 additional volumes of Bibles and other Christian materials in braille or specialized large print to people who are blind or visually impaired and in need of knowing Jesus as their Savior. The funds will purchase specialized paper, cardstock, braille plates, and equipment, and help to meet training and shipping costs to support this endeavor. This project provides physical, mental, and spiritual benefits not only to the recipients of these materials, but also to all of the faithful, dedicated volunteers who produce and distribute God's Word to the visually impaired. Thank you for your mites and your prayers for this Mission Grant.

2025 Operation Thankful is a program sponsored by our Faith congregation this Advent season to assist the Kewanee Food Pantry. Members are encouraged to bring donations of non-perishable food items or dollars to worship services during this season. Soup and cereal is most needed at this time. This has been approved as a Thrivent Action project and \$250 has been received. This is a wonderful way for us to show our Christian love for the fellow citizens in our community. Items will be collected thru December.




Church Council Report: The treasurer's November report was distributed and Sue reported that the general fund has \$41,105.51 which includes the \$2893.41 proceeds from the Oktoberfest, the Memorial/Dedicated Fund has \$9,727.19 for a total of \$50,832.70. The church extension fund balance is \$98,057.44. The Glen Godke memorial monies totaled \$215.00. Repair cost for the elevator totaled \$26,953.23.

Pastor reported that Faith will hold three Thursday evening Advent services at 6:30 pm in December. St. Paul's has invited us to their Thanksgiving service on November 26 at 6:00 pm. Christmas Eve service will begin at 5:30 PM. The death of Janet Estes was noted. A letter to our delinquent members was read with a minor addition. This letter will be sent in December to those on the published list for possible removal.

A solar night light was installed at the rear of the church where the electrical wiring had been broken. A contract was signed with Getz Fire Protection to do a required 5 year hydrostatic test on our fire suppression system for \$3500.

Church Christmas decorations will be put up on December 6th at 9:00 am. A 2026 budget and nomination of officers will be on the agenda for next month's meeting after the Advent service..

 We will be electing church council members at the January 2026 voters' assembly. Nominations are being accepted for Vice Chairman, Treasurer, trustee, and elders' positions. If you are willing to have your name on the slate, please contact any of the elders or church council members. New faces and ideas are always welcomed. Thank you to the existing council members for their many years of devoted service to our congregation.



Josh Bieri's Update: Josh officially was installed as vicar at Faith-La Crosse on August 3rd. After a few weeks of getting acclimated to being a vicar, things really ramped up for him between church planting in Viroqua and campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse. LORD willing, Josh will be called to serve the people at Hill Country-Viroqua next summer. He prays that the LORD of harvest would give growth in Viroqua and establish Hill Country as His place of refuge, where He comes to earth and delivers His Word and Sacraments.

The Bieri family welcomed Samuel James Bieri into the world and their family on October 22nd. He was baptized into Christ and made God's child at Hill Country on October 30th. The family is going to have their hands full!

He thanks you all so much for your continued prayers and support. It has been a fast paced and interesting first quarter to vicarage here in La Crosse and Viroqua.

Kewanee Lutheran Christmas – Pastors Weber and Grieser would like to invite you to a Kewanee Lutheran Christmas at the Grieser home on December 19th from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The Grieser's live on S. Chestnut St. across from Rux Funeral Home. The party will have meats provided, and everyone is encouraged to bring something to share. This will be a time for some authentic Gemütlichkeit, conveying the feeling of warmth, friendliness, and good cheer. Come and share the Christmas cheer.



Q: Why is the color blue used for Advent season?

A: Blue is the more contemporary color increasingly used by many congregations in their observance of a new church year. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope. Blue, the color of the sky, helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago.