



Acts of Faith

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



February 2026

Volume 26 Issue 2

Pastor Paul Weber

cell: 309-716-4759

email: chapemcc@gmail.com

It's Epiphany Season: Epiphany is from a Greek word meaning to "reveal" or "make manifest." The season of Epiphany is our time to focus on the revelation of "who" Jesus is: both true God and man.

The Season of Epiphany lasts from four to nine weeks and ends on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the first day of the Season of Lent. The length of the Epiphany Season varies according to the date of Easter. On the first Sunday after the Epiphany day each year, we celebrate the festival of the Baptism of Our Lord. And, on the last Sunday after the Epiphany day each year, we celebrate the festival of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.

During the Season of Epiphany, Jesus is revealed, made known to us and to the world, as the One who brings healing and forgiveness, teaches and proclaims the Kingdom of God, calls people to become disciples and follow Him. Christ is the Light of the world who brings salvation to every people. During this season we hear about His identity, His mission, and His power. We see Jesus' glory as the only begotten Son of God. We see it in His miracles and His teaching. We see it even in His wondrous grace in willingly coming into the world for the likes of us. Jesus came to make the complete payment for the sins of all who had lived or ever would live.

During this season we should think about our own identity, mission, and empowerment – through Holy Baptism and our place in His community of faith – as we bear His name and His mission and His love to neighbors near and far. Reflect on how Christ has been revealed in our lives through worship, daily meditations, and Bible readings. He continues to reveal Himself through His Word and Sacrament, and our daily encounters with fellow believers.

Many people in the world today are lost, stumbling around in darkness, searching through the shadowy things of this world for meaning, for life, for love. Many are battered, bruised, and broken. As Christians, we have a mission to the world. The light has dawned on us, and we want to share the good news. We can't help but bear it. If Jesus is your Savior and the Lord of your daily life – your hope, your peace, your love, your joy – then shine where you live, where you work, where you go to school, where you travel. Welcome and purposely invite. Do not select "desirables," but to each and to all. If you believe that Jesus is making all the difference in your life, then reach out and touch others with God's love to make a difference in their life. Most importantly, remember to pray daily, and seek God's wisdom when doing so.

Don't ignore or miss God's revelation! May you see, accept, and bear the Light of Jesus Christ! And may the love of Christ that shines in you shine brightly in the world wherever you go!

"Jesus, you revealed yourself to the world so that all people might look to you and be saved: may we know the wholeness that you bring. Be our light in the darkness that we may not stumble, and lift us up again if we fall; all this we ask in your name. Amen."



Faith will observe Ash Wednesday on Thursday, February 19, with a Divine Worship service at 6:30PM. This marks the beginning of Lent, a season of penitence. Faith will offer the imposition of ashes as a symbol of mortality and repentance since, *"The wages of sin is death."* Rom. 6:23. Pastor places a cross on the forehead with a reminder, *"That you are dust and to dust you shall return"* Gen. 3:19. While Faith will not hold weekday services during Lent, St. Paul's and Rev. Grieser will on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM with a soup supper at 5:00. Also, during Lent the *"Alleluia's"*, the *"Gloria in Excelsis"*, and *Hymn of Praise* are omitted in the Divine Worship.

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

February's Calendar

- Feb. 01 **Fourth Sunday after Epiphany with Holy Communion**
Mite box collection
- Feb. 08 **5th Sunday after the Epiphany with Holy Communion**
- Feb. 12 W.O.F. meeting 10:00 AM
- Feb. 14 St. Valentine's Day
- Feb. 15 **Transfiguration of Our Lord with Holy communion**
- Feb. 16 President's Day observance
- Feb. 19 **Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM**
Church Council 7:30 PM
- Feb. 21 CID Small Church Summit
St. Paul Lexington, IL
- Feb. 22 **First Sunday in Lent with Holy communion**



Altar Guild Schedule

Feb. 01	Carol Cook	Green
Feb. 08	Leah Weber	Green
Feb. 15	Kari Tavares	White
Feb. 19	Marilyn Sturtevant	Black
Feb. 23	Marilyn Sturtevant	Purple

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

Those For Whom We Pray: Please include the following in your thoughts and daily prayers.

Our Faith family: Allison Leezer, Cari Bridgewater, Carol Cook, Nancy Tudder, JoAnne Behnke, Peggy Faber, Bonnie Nuding, Nancy Gillespie, Melissa Newman, and Betty Godke.

Friends: Lacey Hammons, 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.



2025 Contribution Statements: Your 2025 contribution statements are available in a holder in the Narthex area in sealed envelopes. Please pick yours up to save the church postage expense.

Portals of Prayer: January-March editions are now available in various sizes in the Narthex. Please pick up a copy for home or one to give to a friend.



Don't forget to direct **Thrivent Choice Dollars®** - Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support Faith Lutheran. Don't let Choice Dollars expire. Beginning January 1, 2026 eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available are asked to direct them to Faith Lutheran – Kewanee. Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. This must be done by the end of March!



February

BIRTHDAYS

Leah Weber	2/01	Paula Leezer	2/16
Milton Stapel	2/02	Sue Cervantez	2/18
Cal Breedlove	2/05	Kari Tavares	2/21
Melissa Newman	2/06	Claudia Croegaert	2/23
Tara Hewitt	2/10	Nick Phillips	2/25
Cari Bridgewater	2/11	Melissa Carper	2/26
Nancy Tudder	2/12	June Hull	2/27
Rebecca Ault	2/13	Marvin Newman	2/27

Baptism Dates

JoAnn Behnke 2/28
Addyson Hicks 2/28



Wedding Anniversaries

Karen & Milton Stapel 2/29

Women of Faith: The Women of Faith will be meeting on Thursday, February 12, at 10:00 AM for a work day. Please bring a brown bag lunch with you. Jeri Bye is the hostess. They will be doing some spring cleaning in the library and Narthex closet.

Last month the W.O.F. ladies divided and transplanted some of the green plants decorating the Narthex. The plants had out grown their pots. Cheryl and Carol are preparing to move them back.

February's Mission Grant supports **Light of Jesus Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers** — A Place of Refuge Ministries of South WI, Inc., Wisconsin (\$75,000). A Place of Refuge Ministries is a network of volunteers and staff who are committed to life and to caring for women facing crisis pregnancy in South Wisconsin. A Place of Refuge is a Gospel-focused service reaching out to women with the love of Christ with both words and actions. They have a house where mom's may stay throughout their pregnancies and while preparing to transition to independent living arrangements. Thank you for your mites and for your prayers.



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



TOM YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT I GOT FRONT ROW SEATING AGAIN OH MY GOODNESS RUN UP HERE NOW I'LL SAVE IT WHILE I CAN

04-28-2014

Operation Thankful

2025: Thank you to everyone who donated to this outreach ministry. A total of 418 lbs. of food and \$130 cash was collected and taken to the pantry. This included \$250 worth pancake mix and syrup purchased with the Thrivent Action donation.

Pictured at the right is Gary Hahn delivering and weighing the donation at the Kewanee Food Pantry.



Voter's Assembly News: Voters met on January 11th to adopt the 2026 Annual Budget, and re-elected 2026 officers. The treasurer reported the end of year General fund balance was \$45,520.64 and the Designated fund balance was \$10,166.24 for a total of \$55,686.88 The mortgage balance is \$96,645.63. 2025 expenses exceeded income by \$15,429.71 due to elevator repair expenses of nearly \$28,000.

Elders reported membership changes in last half of 2025 included two deaths and one self removal. Currently, Faith has 105 confirmed members and 148 baptized members. The congregation approved the removal of 17 additional members by self-exclusion from the church. Most of these names have moved away without requesting a transfer or regrettably have indicated they do not intend to be a part of our church. Our list of inactives was shared with the new minister at St. Paul's for his evangelism effort.

Pastor reported that the vacancy at Holy Cross in Moline and at St. John's in East Moline are still open.

Ted Sturtevant thanked Joe Cervantez for the help with mowing the grounds, and thanked Nick and Sandy Phillips and Kari Tavares for cleaning the church monthly. The drive and parking lot were sprayed for weeds and pavement cracks were sealed. The elevator passed inspection in October, and we are waiting on the State of Illinois to invoice us for a new certification. We have entered a contract with Getz fire equipment to test our fire suppression system as required by the fire department. A contract was awarded to Israel Brothers to repair and paint the north wall and ceiling of the sanctuary. We gratefully thank Mrs. Julie Godke Wilson, daughter of Robert and "Tootie" Godke, for a generous gift of \$8500 in memory of her parents and Uncle Glen to cover the cost of these repairs. Work will begin in January and monies were included in the budget for 2026.

The approved 2026 budget shows an income of \$94,100 and expenses of \$93,367. 2026 Officers elected were Chairman: Bill Croegaert, Vice-Chair: Gary Hahn, Treasurer: Sue Cervantez, Secretary: Kari Tavares, Trustee: Ted Sturtevant, Elders: Gary Hahn, Ron Larson, Kevin Hull, and Ted Sturtevant.

Gary Hahn was elected to serve as Faith's voting lay delegate for LCMS President in June. Pastor Weber also has a vote.

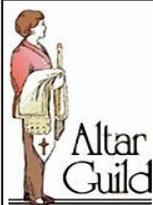
The assembly approved a motion to enter a three year maintenance agreement with Otis Elevator at a cost of \$1608 per year. This includes two annual inspections and their 24 hour phone answering service. It does not include replacement parts costs. Without an agreement we would be charged \$600 per hour for a minimum of two hours including travelling time from the Cities.

Fresh floral bouquets beautify our altar and remind us of the frailty of life. Dedicate flowers in memory of loved ones or in honor of a special family occasion. Please reserve a Sunday on the 2026 flower chart in the Narthex. One or two bouquets or potted plants are appreciated. Flower vase inserts for use are available in the sacristy. We thank everyone for participating.



Rev. Grieser at St. Paul's -Kewanee is planning to form a post high school young adult group, ages 20 thru 30's. Any interested participants are invited to a luncheon at his house [508 S. Chestnut] on February 7th at noon.

Inclement Weather: Cancellation of worship service at Faith due to a weather advisory or dangerous conditions are determined by Elder Ted Sturtevant and Pastor Weber. When a decision is made, cancellations will be communicated via a phone message or e-mail. Before travelling under such conditions please check your messages, or contact one of the above for your own safety.



Let's acknowledge the efforts of Marilyn and the ladies of the Altar Guild who humbly and pray fully prepare the Lord's Altar and Eucharist for the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Divine Services with an attention to detail that honors the sacredness of the space. Their responsibilities reflect the dedication and care these members provide to their church community. If you feel "called" to join the Guild speak to Marilyn. Extra hands are always welcomed to lighten the load.