



Acts of Faith

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



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The following is a letter from Rev. Mark Eddy, Acting District President, to all members of the LCMS-CID,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Many of you have heard the difficult news that on January 28, 2026, Central Illinois District President Michael Mohr was arrested by federal law enforcement on charges related to child pornography. We pray that God's hand of justice and mercy will prevail for all affected by this situation and for Christ's Church. We ask the Lord for His continued grace and wisdom during this painful time. In view of President Mohr's incapacity, on February 2, 2026, the District Board of Directors designated me to serve as Acting District President and to carry out the responsibilities of that office.

These events have shaken our district and have brought grief, confusion, anger, and sorrow. For times like these, we can find stability, encouragement, and guidance in God's word. Psalm 120:2 reminds us, "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." When sin and betrayal wound members of Christ's Church, we do not deny the seriousness of sin or the pain it causes. God's holy Law rightly condemns sexual sin, exploitation, and anything else which harms our neighbors. Such sin damages victims, families, congregations, and the witness of the Church. We grieve with those who are hurting, and we commit ourselves to care for victims with compassion, truth, and support. In our grief and distress, our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Our help is ultimately found in the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ single-handedly took on the burden of human sin. He is also the righteous Judge, and He extends forgiveness because He died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and was raised for our justification (Rom. 4:25). The Church consists totally of sinners. So Christ established local churches as places where we come in repentance, and leave with forgiveness and restoration. We entrust all earthly investigations and legal proceedings to the governing authorities established by God, while we entrust every soul to the mercy and judgment of Christ. "Blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity" (Ps. 32:2). This is our confidence—not in any human leader, but in the crucified and risen Lord who remains the head of His Church.

Finally, our help in Christ guides us as we move forward together. The mission of Christ's Church continues. We still proclaim the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, and care for Christ's people. During this time, district leadership, circuit visitors, and pastoral leaders will continue working to support congregations, address needs, and maintain faithful ministry throughout our district. On February 12, the circuit visitors and I will meet to discuss the needs of Central Illinois congregations and the work that continues before us.

Moments like this test faith and challenge trust. Yet the Lord who created heaven and earth remains faithful to His promises. The Church does not stand on the strength of its leaders but on the unchanging Word of God and the saving work of Jesus Christ. Therefore, we do not lose heart. We lament sin honestly, proclaim forgiveness boldly, and continue the work which Christ has entrusted to His Church with humility and hope.

I also remind anyone with information to reach out to the FBI at (314) 589-2500 and to refer anyone in need of mental health support with this issue to Ms. Rebekah Wendling at (877) 276-1740. Please continue to pray for all involved in this situation, for the victims of sin, for repentance where it is needed, and for the strengthening of Christ's Church throughout the Central Illinois District. May the Lord sustain us, guide us, and keep us steadfast in faith and love.

Rev. Mark Eddy, Acting District President

Please pray for Christ's Church throughout the Central Illinois District in these troubled times and always.

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



Mar. 01	Carol Cook	Purple
Mar. 08	Leah Weber	Purple
Mar. 15	Kari Tavares	Purple
Mar. 22	Marilyn Sturtevant	Purple
Mar. 29	Carol Cook	Red

March's Calendar

- Mar. 01** **Second Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion**
Mite box collection
- Mar. 07 Spring Forward clocks
- Mar. 08** **Third Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion**
Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar. 12 WOF meets at 10:00 AM
- Mar. 15** **Fourth Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion**
- Mar. 17 St. Patrick's Day Observance.
- Mar. 19 IL Pro-Life March Springfield 1:00 PM
Elders & Council Mtg. (6:30/7:00PM)
- Mar. 22** **Fifth Sunday in Lent with Holy Communion**
- Mar. 29** **Palm Sunday**
No Holy Communion

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, Randy Stockner, 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.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy



Holy Week

Palm Sunday March 29th 9:00 AM

Maundy Thursday April 2nd 6:30 PM

Good Friday April 3rd 6:30 PM

Easter Morning April 5th 9:00 AM

March

Birthdays

Katherine Talbot	3/02
Addison Talbot	3/06
Bonnie Nuding	3/08
Betty Godke	3/11
Stella Nimrick	3/12
Jaxson Hicks	3/14
Eric Cervantez	3/16

Baptism Dates

Becky Ault	3/17
Cal Breedlove	3/06
Claudia Croegaert	3/24
Ernie Heinrich	3/04
Tara Hewitt	3/23
Aimery Jackson	3/16
Melissa Newman	3/13
Sandra Philips	3/01
Marilyn Sturtevant	3/19



Wedding Anniversaries

Julie & Roy Carpenter	3/04
Mary Kay & Marvin Newman	3/18

Women of Faith: The Women of Faith will meet on March 12th at 10:00 AM. Marilyn Sturtevant will be the hostess. This month the ladies will be doing the cleaning of the kitchen area. Bring your brown bag lunch.

LWML CID District Convention will be April 24-25, 2025, at Decatur, IL.

This month we are featuring **Redeeming Life New Moms and Babies Transition Home** Mission Grant 22. Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, a pro-life ministry, is devoted to proclaiming the sanctity of human life through critical support services for women who may otherwise feel abortion is their only option. The Redeeming Life Maternity Home in East Dundee, Illinois, opened in 2024 and has several women in residence.

Following God's direction to not love in word or talk but in deeds and in truth (1 John 3:18), Redeeming Life provides safe, stable housing and program services to single mothers experiencing crisis pregnancies and disciples them through the first stages of new motherhood. Redeeming Life New Moms and Babies Transition Home is a Christ-centered home for single pregnant women in crisis and operates to redeem lives of single mothers and their preborn children, providing hope, love, and a future. Often, ongoing support services are critical to the stability and future independence of these moms. Thank you for your support of this mission.



Looking Forward: This past month has stirred up a lot of things in CID. Former President Michael Mohr has been arrested and now permanently removed from the LCMS roster. The Rock Island Circuit is now looking at a third vacancy as Rev. Mark Eddy has now become CID President Eddy. Pastor Grieser at St. Paul LC and I have been talking with our circuit visitors. We all believe that it will be in everyone's best interest for Faith LC and St. Paul LC to have a joint meeting in April (date and time to be determined) to discuss the future of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in Kewanee. We are also planning on inviting the LCMS congregation from Brimfield to join us in this discussion.

It is time for all of the LCMS Lutherans to start having conversations with one another. We need to try to find a better way for us all to work together. I encourage you, as members of Faith, to talk to one another about some ideas on ways that we can work together with other churches. We are at the brainstorming phase. Invite members of St. Paul's over for coffee or dinner to start the conversation, not looking for immediate results, but praying for God to set us all on the path toward reconciliation and working together again.

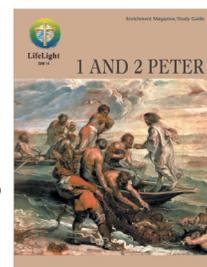
Lent is a season about repentance. All of humanity needs to come to repentance. We confess our sins looking for God's gift of forgiveness in Jesus' name. Repentance is also about all of us coming back to God. We come back God, looking for His answers, seeking His blessings, and praying in His will to be done.

Share any thoughts you may have concerning this meeting with the Elders. Pastor Paul Weber

LLL CID District Convention: Lutheran Laymen's League in central Illinois will convene on March 21st at Christ Lutheran in Normal, IL. The 2026 theme is "Faith Formation in the Household" and features guest speaker Rev. Dr. Peter J. Scaer, Chairmen and Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Anyone is invited to register and attend. See the latest issue of *The GatePost* magazine. For more information, please contact: Deloris Blessman • (309) 361-1461 delorisblessman@yahoo.com .

CID Dollars For Missions Online: New this year, you can now support DFM through online giving. Many people no longer carry cash but still want to support the Central Illinois District's mission work. One-time and recurring donations are now available online at <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/LCMSCentralIllinoisDistrict/D4M> . All new recurring gifts will be matched by a special one-time gift, up to \$20,000.

Lifelight Bible Study: Lifelight is returning for the spring. Join us for 1 & 2 Peter, a nine week Bible study. We normally meet each Monday at 1:00 PM starting on April 20th this time. Study guides are available in the office for those who would like to start early. Anyone is welcome to sit in at any time. Here we have two documents written by one who walked with Jesus. Peter was one of Jesus' closest companions and became a key leader of the early church. Peter sent these two letters to scattered believers to encourage them to continue to live faithfully despite rising persecution and hostility.



- From left to right:
1. Cracks in ceiling and wall.
 2. Repair at work.
 3. Finished look.

Thank you to the contractors and Julie Godke Wilson for her financial assistance in this repair.



Clocks will spring forward one hour on Sunday, March 8, 2026, as daylight saving time begins across most of the United States. This will result in later sunrises and sunsets. It will mean losing an hour of sleep and moving the clocks around your house forward one hour, though your cell phone will likely automatically adjust. Don't be late for church!



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, IL.

Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. This must be done by the end of March!

Q: What Lutheran teaching is emphasized during Lent regarding good works?

A: While our entire lives are lived in repentance, Lent is a special season of penitence and reflection. This is our preparation to fully honor the sacrifice of Christ on the cross on Good Friday and the joyfully celebrate the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. Some people choose to observe Lent with a fast from something they enjoy or by engaging in extra sacrificial giving.