

FAITH NEWSLETTER

February 2005 / March 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



I know most of you are busy. That's an unfortunate part of life in 2005. We live busy lives. There are so many items on the to-do list that we find ourselves running here and there and everywhere. Sometimes our on-the-go bodies need to stop. We need to take a break and rest.

What's good for the body is also good for the soul! The soul needs rest and renewal, and that's what Lent is for. Lent is a time to take a break from the run-around and to seek spiritual renewal in Christ. It is a season of penitential reflection, as we look deep down into the soul to see our utter depravity and the need for Christ's crucifixion.

Those times of self-examination bring us down, but then, we are lifted up by the One who was lifted up for us. He lifts us up. He renews our spirit and restores our soul.

I invite you to join us for this essential time of spiritual renewal. Several special worship opportunities await you.

Sunday Mornings: The amazing love of Christ will be heard in drama and dialogue sermons. We will reflect on His love and intercession for us as we hear "The Prayers of the Passion" beginning Sunday, February 13. Sunday services begin at 8:30am and 11:00am.

Wednesday Evenings: The blood of Christ was shed on Calvary. We know that, but do we ever stop to reflect on what that blood does for us? There are great blessings in the blood of Jesus. That blood gives access, cleanses, pardons, speaks and sanctifies. Come meditate upon "The Blessings in the Blood of Jesus" beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 9, at 7:00pm.



Holy Week: The great season of spiritual renewal reaches its pinnacle on the week of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. We experience the depths of sorrow and the heights of joy as we walk with our Lord to a killing cross and an empty tomb. Palm Sunday services are at 8:30am and 11:00am. Maundy Thursday worship begins at 7:00pm. Good Friday services of reflection and repentance begin at 3:00pm and 7:00pm. And Easter celebration services start at 7:00am and 10:00am.

If there's still room on your calendar, mark down these important dates and times. (If there's not enough room, consider erasing one of those busybody activities and scheduling a time of spiritual rest.)

**You deserve a break today and so does your soul!
Take a break from the run-around to rest, repent and reflect.**

Sincerely Yours in the Crucified Christ,

Pastor Mike Gudgel

In and Around Faith Church

LWML

Our activities are starting again. February 9th will be the Lenten Breakfast at St. Paul Church starting at 9:00 AM. All ladies are invited, but you need to let me know if you are planning to attend.

Saturday, March 12th is Lenten Inspiration Day at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tinley Park. The speaker will be Rev. John Nunes. Again, all ladies are invited, but need to let me know if they are planning on attending. This event starts at 8:30 AM with coffee and treats.

Grace Scott

Youth Group

Another fun, faith-building weekend is coming up for the youth. We will be going on a retreat to Camp CILCA this spring. April 22-24 are the dates to remember. Watch for more details and speak to Pastor if you are interested in attending.

Spring Outreach

Plans are in the works for a follow up outreach to the community. With VBS, the Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree and Sunday School, it's time to reconnect with the community.

We are looking at the end of May for an outdoor event in the church parking lot. At this time we need *all* organizations to think about how you can help. We will need financial support and physical help for this event to be a success.

Please contact Celeste Oslakovic or Pastor Gudgel if you are interested in helping with the planning.

Faith Seniors

Our Seniors will meet on February 17th. Why not join us for information and fellowship. The conversation is great.

Lenten Folders

The special coin folders for use during the Lenten season can be found on the Literature Table beginning Ash Wednesday. This special Lenten offering will help us in our mission here at Faith.

Faith Ladies Aid

We are celebrating our 40th anniversary. In observance of this great milestone we have set a goal of having 40 ladies in our membership. Please help us achieve this goal by joining us on Feb. 3rd at 6:30 PM for a soup supper. We meet in the Parish Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Our dues are \$3.00 per year.

Our meeting on March 3rd will be at 7:00 PM. We will be making plans for our Rummage sale to be held in April.

For further information please contact Gail Henson, Mary Slepski, or Kathleen Nowak.

We are like Alka-Seltzer--

Try us you'll like us.

Kathleen Nowak
Membership Chairperson

Congregational Meeting

Our next Congregational meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 2nd at 7:00 PM in the church basement. We need everyone's input and would like to hear your views.

You become a "voting member" by attending at least one Congregational meeting within the last year's time.

Thank You

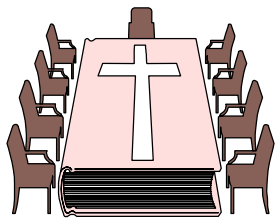
The Southwest Christian Choir extends a sincere thank you to the Faith Ladies Aid for serving sandwiches on Jan. 9th after the concert.

Schedule of February 2005 / March 2005 Events

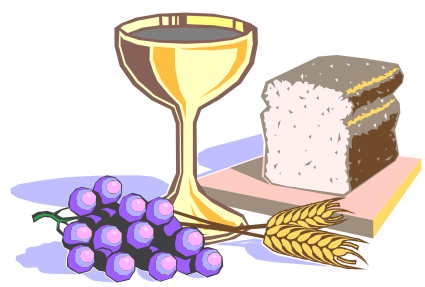
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>February Event</u>
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	8:30 AM	Worship / Communion
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
9	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship / Communion
13	8:30 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
16	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	8:30 AM	Worship / Communion
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
23	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
27	8:30 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.

Weekly Meetings

AA Groups	M - 6:00 PM F- 7:00 PM Sat - 8:00 AM
Brownies	F - 3:30 PM
Girl Scouts	M - 3:30 PM
ALANON	Tu - 8:00 PM
Choir	W - 6:30 PM
Seniors	(Third) - Th. - 12:00 PM
Ladies Aid	(First) - Th. - 7:00 PM



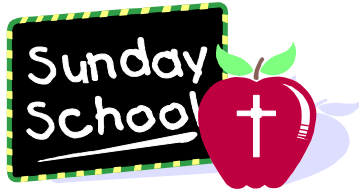
<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>March Event</u>
2	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	8:30 AM	Worship / Communion
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
9	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
13	8:30 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
16	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	8:30 AM	Palm Sunday Worship / Communion
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
24	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Worship / Communion
25	3:00 PM	Good Friday Worship
	7:00 PM	Worship
27	7:00 AM	Easter Sunday Worship / Communion
	8:30 AM	Easter Breakfast
	10:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.



Upcoming Events

Dates to Remember

Feb. 9 th	Elders' Meeting	8:15 PM
Mar. 20 th	Palm Sunday	8:30 & 11:00AM
Mar. 24 th	Maundy Thursday	7:00PM
Mar. 25 th	Good Friday	3:00 & 7:00 PM
Mar. 27 th	Easter Service	7:00 & 10:00 AM
	Easter Breakfast	8:30 AM
Apr. 22-24	Youth Retreat	
Apr.	Rummage Sale	
May	Spring Outreach	
Sept. 11 th	Church Picnic	



There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

See you April 3rd.

Easter Breakfast

Plans are underway for the Easter breakfast. Plan on attending this breakfast starting at 8:30 AM. You can come after the early service or before the second service.



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will be selling Lily and Hyacinth plants again this Easter. The plants will be used to adorn our Altar on Easter Sunday and then can be taken home after the 10:00 AM service. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex.



Rummage Sale

The Faith Ladies' are busy planning the next Rummage Sale. This event will take place in April.

Now is a good time to start cleaning out closets and the like. The rummage sale will help you find a place to get rid of your no longer needed treasures, thereby helping the Ladies' Aid.

The Ladies' Aid is a great asset to the church. They help subsidize ongoing projects that benefit all church members.

Remember someone's trash is another person's treasure.