

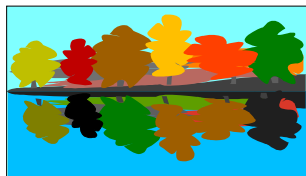
FAITH NEWSLETTER

December 2005 / January 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*From the
Pastor* 

With the Fall season now in full swing, our attention turns to roasted turkey, dressing, gravy, pumpkin pie (possibly with some Cool Whip),



cranberry sauce, and of course football (Go Bears!). All of these delightful images help us remember past Thanksgiving Days and remind us to give thanks to our loving God for His many blessings that He places in our lives. God lovingly provides good and wonderful things for our lives and we gratefully respond by generously giving and sharing much of what we have. As grateful members of God's family, we freely and joyfully want to give of ourselves to the Lord's work. Being entrusted with His resources, we prayerfully watch over them and administer them for His purposes.

As the Fall season fades away and Winter approaches, we are reminded of the new church year that begins with the season of Advent and leads up to Christmas. During Advent (which means *coming*), we anticipate and faithfully prepare for our Lord's birth while at Christmas, we celebrate Christ's first "coming" and faithfully get ready for that future day when Jesus will return as judge ruler of all people.

Due to God's involvement in Advent and Christmas, there is meaning in life (the activities, emotions, and relationships). There is purpose in life because of God's oversight of its seasons and time. There is significance in life because of God's love for us. The psalmist in **Psalm 31:14-16** confirms these things when he says, "**But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unflinching love.**"



Anna and I look forward to the New Year in Oak Lawn with the assurance, hope, and comfort found in Christ Jesus through His work on the cross. With great anticipation, we pray that God would continue blessing all of us at Faith to work together in getting out and sharing His Good News message of salvation in Jesus Christ to those spiritually lost. In loving service to the Lord, all of us at Faith are to serve one another and the people in our community by identifying their basic living needs and helping fulfill them. God's promise assures us that He is indeed always in control of everything and continually with us (Matt. 28:20). With God's gracious love showered upon us from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are able to cheerfully face the New Year and live lives that please and glorify God.

Anna and I want to express to each one of you our deepest, heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the love, care, and support that you have shown us since our first visit in early August. Your generosity is very much appreciated and we are greatly blessed by the Lord to be here at Faith serving Him with you! Joy and peace in the Lord!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Stephen Bocklage

In and Around Faith Church

LWML

I want to thank everyone that contributed items for the Katrina Survivor kits. We were able to assemble nine baby kits and seven child kits. They were recently shipped.

St. Paul's LWML has invited our ladies to their Christmas Tea on December 5, 2005 at 2:00 PM in their Fellowship Hall. If you would like to attend, please let me know so I can let them know how many to expect.

Grace Scott

Faith Seniors

Due to the illness of several of our members we were not able to meet in October.

Faith Ladies Aid

Our small group of ladies is praying that more church ladies will consider joining us. We are extending an invitation to all ladies of Faith Church. We meet the first Thursday of every month except January, July, and August.

The December meeting will be our Christmas party held on Dec. 1st at 6:30 PM. All ladies are invited and need to bring a \$5.00 wrapped grab bag gift. Chicken will be provided so plan on bringing a dish for the buffet table. We will also play Bunco that evening.

Please consider joining us for the Christmas party and try a New Year's resolution of helping us grow and assisting us as we strive for church growth. We sincerely thank all who have helped us in the past and we look forward to growing in 2006.

Kathleen Nowak - Membership Chair

Voters' Meeting

There will be a Voters' meeting Jan. 13th at 7:00 PM in the church basement. Please join us.

Advent Folders

The special coin folders for use during the Advent season can be found on the Literature Table.

Fall Bazaar

The Ladies Aid would like to thank the following for their donations made to our raffle.

Founders Bank, Moraine Valley Performing Arts Center, The Chicago White Sox, Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bulls, Chicago Fire, Chicago Wolves, Hair By Design, and LaSalle Bank. We also wish to acknowledge the support and generosity of our long time member Wilma Laschober. May she rest in peace knowing she truly helped in doing God's work here at Faith.

We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who supported, donated to, and worked at the annual Fall Bazaar. All of you helped make it a great success.

Altar Guild

We would like to thank everyone who bought flowers for the altar. Please make sure your payment is in before the end of the year.

Thank you for your donation in the recent door collection and watch for our 2006 fund raiser Christmas Tree in the Narthex.

Publicity Chair

If any organization at Faith would like to have its activities/events publicized, please contact Debbie Hochgesang. She will be happy to let the local newspapers, etc. know about what is happening at Faith.

Debbi Hochgesang can be reached at 708-499-2866 or dhochgesang@comcast.net

Schedule of December 2005 / January 2006 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>December Event</u>
3	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
4	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
7	7:00 PM	Advent Worship
11	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
14	7:00 PM	Advent Worship
17	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
18	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
21	7:00 PM	Advent Worship
24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Candlelight Service
25	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Worship/ Communion

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>January Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg. Adult Bible Class
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
15	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
14	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
22	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
29	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class

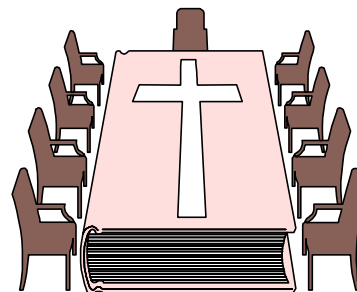
The Advent Tree

You are invited to the children's Christmas Program "The Advent Tree" at 9:00 AM on Dec. 18th. The children look forward to seeing you there.



Weekly Meetings

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



Dec./Jan. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Dec. 4 Frank Oslakovic
Gene Osmanski
Mark Trojanowski
Elise Trojanowski

Dec. 11 Ed Neaves
Mary Slepski
Gail Henson

Dec. 18 Alden Ketchum
Glenn Werth
Dory Moeller
Bob Stegman

Dec. 25 Gene Osmanski
Richard Clark
Andrea Skopec
Al Skopec

Advent 7:00 PM Wednesday

Dec. 7 Ed Neaves
Mark Trojanowski

Dec. 14 Alden Ketchum
Nick Trojanowki

Dec. 21 Richard Clark
Frank Oslakovic

Dec. 24 Bill Weems
Ed Neaves

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

December 4 Mark Trojanowski

December 11 Alma Rissky

December 18 Nick Trojanowski

December 25 Gene Osmanski

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Jan. 1 Frank Oslakovic
Christina Trojanowski
Elise Trojanowski

Jan. 8 Ed Neaves
Glenn Werth
Gene Tebo

Jan. 15 Gene Osmanski
Bill Weems
Colleen Weems
Nick Trojanowski

Jan. 22 Alden Ketchum
Mark Trojanowski
Dory moeller

Jan. 29 Richard Clark
Frank Oslakovic
Mary Slepski
Gail Henson

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

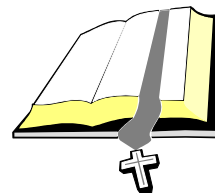
Jan. 1 Christina Trojanowski

Jan. 8 Alma Rissky

Jan. 15 Ed Neaves

Jan. 22 Mark Trojanowski

Jan. 29 Gail Henson



In and Around Faith Church

Together - Ablaze!

Northern Illinois District 2005

As we celebrate the work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in our district, take a minute to review our mission statement:

'To work together as congregations and leaders to support, encourage and assist each other in extending the ministry of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. '

There are so many things that we could never do as individuals or as a single congregation that we can do together in our district. A few of our opportunities are:

- Worshiping together
- Praying together
- Planting new congregations
- Supporting minority ministries
- Supporting prison ministries
- Supporting hurricane victims
- Supporting ministries to handicapped
- Walcamp outdoor ministry
- Supporting Concordia University, River Forest
- Northern Illinois University student ministry
- International student ministry
- Leadership training

Put together all the *'Gospel Lights'* of all these ministries made possible through our district and we have a blazing fire that will lead many to Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

What Luther Says About Returning Thanks

Also, after eating, they shall, in like manner, reverently and with folded hands say: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love endures forever. He gives food to every creature. He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call. His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor His delight in the legs of a man; the Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love (Psalm 136:1, 25; 147:9-11).

Then shall be said the Lord's Prayer and the following:

We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

God in His Book tells me that I am His steward. This means that:

1. God owns everything. Genesis 1:1 - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Psalm 24:1 - *The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof the world and they that dwell therein.*

Haggai 2:8 - *The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine, says the Lord of hosts. (RSV)*

2. I, too, belong to God.

Because He made me: **Psalm 139:14** - *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Because He redeemed me: I Corinthians 6:19* - *You are not your own; you were bought with a price. (RSV)*

3. All that I am, all that I have, is God's. As His steward, or manager, I am to use all to God's glory.

This includes

My body and soul:

I Corinthians 6:20 - *Glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

My time:

Ephesians 5:16 - *Make the best use of your time. (P).*

John 9:4 - *We must work the works of Him who sent Me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. (RSV)*

My talents:

I Peter 4:10 - *Each one must use the special gift he has received from God for the good of others, as a good manager of God's different gifts. (GN)*

My treasures:

II Corinthians 8:3, 5 - *They gave according to their means ... and beyond their means. But first they gave themselves to the Lord. (RSV)*

I Corinthians 16:2 - *Every Sunday each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for this offering. The amount depends upon how much the Lord has helped you earn. (LNT)*

4. God wants me to be faithful in my stewardship.

I Corinthians 4:2 - *The one thing required of the man in charge is that he be faithful to his master. (GN)*

Romans 14:12 - *Each of us shall give account of himself to God. (RSV)*

5. By living the life of a faithful steward, I live Christ's kind of life - I live the happy life.

Luke 2:49 - *Didn't you know that I must be about My Father's business?*

John 4:34 - *My food ... is to obey the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. (GN)*

John 15:10, 11 - *If you keep My Commandments you will live in My love just as I have kept My Father's commandments and live in His love. I have told you this so that you can share My joy, and that your happiness may be complete. (P)*

6. The master motive which frees me to dedicate myself to such stewardship living is Christ's redeeming love for me.

II Corinthians 5:14,15 - *The love of Christ compels us because we're convinced One died for all and so all have died. He died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose for them. (B)*

Galatians 2:20 - *He loved me, and gave Himself for me.*