

FAITH NEWSLETTER

August 2006 / September 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Summer is in full swing and that means vacation time from school, work, and routines. With a little more leeway in our schedules, we have choices to make, priorities to establish, and readjustments to our priority list.

Max Lucado, a popular Christian author, gives an interesting list of what to choose:

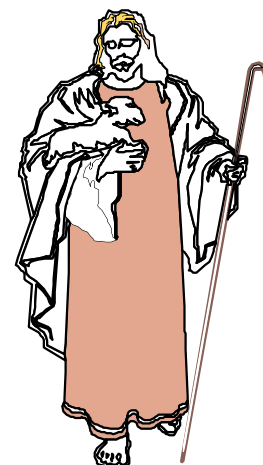
I choose love...No occasion justifies hatred;
I choose joy...I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God;
I choose peace...I will live forgiven;
I choose patience...Instead of complaining for waiting, I'll thank God for time, and pray;
I choose kindness...I will be kind to the poor, alone, rich, afraid, unkind, for such is how God treats me;
I choose goodness...I will confess before I accuse;
I choose faithfulness...Today I will keep my promises;
I choose gentleness...Nothing is truly won by force;
I choose self-control...I will be influenced and taught by God;

Joshua summarized it effectively centuries ago when he said, ***"...choose you this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"*** (Joshua 24:15). Of course, it isn't easy. Whether it's the summer months or other times of the year, we struggle with choices pertaining to God and the things of God. You and I need help now and in this life!

Our ministry together at Faith will call for making many choices, decisions, adjustments, challenges, and opportunities that will faithfully nudge us to look to Jesus for help, guidance, strength, priorities, and choices.

As we go in various directions during the summer months, we leave – or try to leave – many different things behind but never the need to choose. Let us always choose Life – He who is ***"...The Way, The Truth, and The Life...."*** (John 14:6).

We thank the Lord, and each other, for not making our choices easy, but for making them good by His Grace.



Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steve Bocklage

In and Around Faith Church

LWML

The Rally will be in early September at St. Paul church. Our activity at the Fall Rally will be to finish tying the fleece blankets sent by area LWML organizations. These blankets will be given to Lutheran Relief.

Hope to see some of our members there.

Grace Scott

Faith Ladies Aid

How are you going to “fall” into Fall? We hope you will fall into our September meeting on Thursday, September 7th at 7:00 PM.

Our ladies will greet you enthusiastically as they make plans for a busy season. We need your help so we can continue our many projects at Faith. Our meetings are meaningful and promote good Christian fellowship among the Ladies of Faith. Our work together benefits our church as well as reaches out to others according to God’s word.

Kathleen Nowak
Membership Chairman

Altar Guild

Our Altar flowers for each Sunday are purchased and delivered to us by R and D Florist. This year’s geranium delivery was a disappointment. We expressed our disappointment and have now been given a credit on our account.

Thank you to all who purchased geraniums. We are now seeing blooms around the church geraniums, we hope you are seeing blooms also.

Barb Tebo

Down to Earth

We asked you to help get the Angels on Earth Send-a-Seed Project off the ground. Our goal was to collect enough seeds to sprinkle throughout the hard-hit areas of last year’s devastating hurricanes and let hope flower in the Gulf Coast. It was a big dream to hang on a grass-roots effort, but I hoped we could make a nice showing.

The first few envelopes addressed Send-a-Seed trickled in. Then a shoebox arrived filled with seeds. One morning I was called to the lobby where I found a mountain of mail marked Send-a -Seed before me. Since then 200 pounds of seeds have passed through our office.

Seeds came from all across the USA, from Puerto Rico, and the UK. Garden Clubs, sororities and even Bunco Clubs got involved. A hardware store gave us a discount on gardening gloves and sold seed packets two for one.

Your seeds are already finding homes in southern soil. Your prayers and love accompanied every package. You are angels on earth.

Colleen Hughes
Editor in Chief
Angels on Earth Magazine



Schedule of August 2006 / September 2006 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>August Event</u>
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
		Confirmation
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
13	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
27	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Satisfied with Ourselves?

Many Christians work tirelessly in their congregations, serving on committees and participating in church functions. By God's grace, we sing God's Word to the congregation, lead children to the Savior, or clean the altar linens. But even pious acts can become tools that Satan uses to make us proud of ourselves.

Do we give to the church to win the approval of the pastor or the congregation? Is our service for public acknowledgement? Do we flaunt our good works, like the Pharisee who paraded his righteousness?

Only in the humility of faith can we acknowledge our sinfulness, crying out like the tax collector, "God, have mercy on me, a sinner," and receive forgiveness. Yet God shows His love for us, baptizing us into Christ's death and resurrection, clothing us in Him, and perfecting our deeds through His perfect Son, whose righteous acts worked salvation for us.

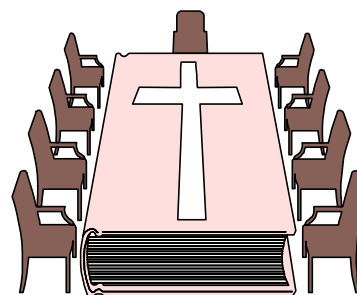
And from this love, which God pours into our hearts, we give our treasures to God, always mindful of finding our completeness in Christ, rather than in our deeds.

Portals of Prayer July – September

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>September Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
10	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
24	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

AA Groups	M & F - 6:00 PM
	Sat - 8:00 AM
Bible Study	Fri. – 10:30 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



August / Sept. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

August 6	Frank Oslakovic Ed Neaves Glen Werth Elise Trojanowski
August 13	Alden Ketchum Nick Trojanowski Christina Trojanowski
August 20	Bill Weems Richard Clark Glenn Werth Dory Moeller
August 27	Gene Osmanski Gene Tebo Bob Stegman

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

August 6	Frank Oslakovic
August 13	Alma Risky
August 20	Bill Weems
August 27	Gene Osmanski

Older But Wiser

An elderly gentleman living in Minneapolis called his son in Atlanta and tells him, "Ray, I hate to tell you this, but your mother and I are getting divorced."

"What!" shouts the son. "That's ridiculous. You've been married for 50 years. Your anniversary is next week."

The father says, "I don't want to talk about this son. Please call your sister and tell her." Then he hangs up.

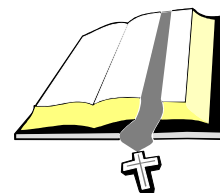
Frantically, the son calls his sister, who lives in Houston. "No way" she explodes at the news.

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

September 3	Frank Oslakovic Ed Neaves Mark Trojanowski Elise Trojanowski
September 10	Alden Ketchum Al Skopec Andrea Skopec
September 17	Richard Clark Bill Weems Nick Trojanowski Christina Trojanowski
September 24	Gene Osmanski Mary Slepiski Gail Henson

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

September 3	Mark Trojanowski
September 10	Nick Trojanowski
September 17	Alma Risky
September 24	Ed Neaves



"Leave it to me. I'll take care of this!"

She calls her father and screams at him, "Dad you are not getting a divorce! I'm calling Ray back right now. We'll both be there this weekend. Don't you two do a thing until we talk about this." And she hangs up.

"Well, dear," the father says to his wife, "It's all settled. Both kids will be here for our anniversary, and they're paying their own airfare."

Pastor's Corner

“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”

1 John 1:3

Why Go To Church?

Many of us are well aware that 40 years ago it was commonly assumed in many families that church attendance was important, However, it seems in today's world of choices, some people are asking: Why go to church? Some people attend church out of habit. Others attend because it's expected within their families or social circle. Some have never been a part of church life and question the value of church and worship. For them, Sunday morning is a time to recuperate from Saturday night or a time to get some work done around the house.

Maybe Due To Cheap Imitations...?

America is a worshipping nation, although not necessarily a Christian nation anymore. We worship money, pleasure, fame, work, sports, sex, and a thousand other cheap imitations of God's glory. In his 1985 book titled *Work, Play, and Worship in a Leisure Oriented Society*, Gordon Dahl writes: “*Most middle-class Americans tend to: Worship their work; work at their play; and play at their worship.... That which we worship, we serve, and that which we serve we will give our all – heart, soul, mind and body.*”

Don't Be Careless Or Throw It Away...

Realizing that worship is an assembly with God, it seems incredible that anybody would be careless or flippant about going to church, or to neglect worship in order to enjoy the things we can see and touch. Somewhat like Esau, we are all tempted to throw away the lasting gift for the one we can have now. Like the children of Israel, let us not give up on God's promise for the future just to have ease and comfort now. When we neglect worship, we throw away the lasting possession. Attending church and worship stimulates us to put into action, as Paul says in **Philippians 2:12-13**, “*God's saving work in your lives, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire to obey Him and the power to do what pleases Him.*” Regular participation in worship stimulates us to want to obey God and do what pleases Him.

Meeting The Need...

The church is pictured as a body in **1 Corinthians 12**, and Paul explains that each part of the body exists to meet the needs of other body parts. In the same way, God intends each of us to meet the needs of other believers, using our strengths to help in their areas of weakness, **1 Corinthians 12:21** expresses it this way: “*The eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of you.*” Neither can a Christian claim to be self-sufficient today. Unmistakably, **1 Corinthians 12:7** states that these abilities are not provided to make you or me feel good. They are abilities to minister that should be used for the common good! **1 Peter 4:10** commands us to use spiritual gifts to help each other.

So, Why Go To Church?

1 John 1:3 makes it clear that we enter a fellowship that goes two ways with God and with other Christians. The bottom line is that a single verse should actually be sufficient to answer the question. **Hebrews 10:25** warns: “*Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*”

The Lord's Prayer

In a very simple way in which the head of a house is to present it to the household

The Introduction

Our Father, who art in heaven.

What does this mean? **Answer:** With these words God wants to entice us, so that we come to believe he is truly our Father and we are truly his children, in order that we may ask him boldly and with complete confidence, just as loving children ask their loving father.

The First Petition

Hallowed be Thy name.

What does this mean? **Answer:** It is true that God's name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us.

How is God's name kept holy? **Answer:** Whenever the Word of God is taught clearly and purely and we, as God's children, also live holy lives according to it. To this end help us, dear Father in heaven! However, whoever teaches and lives otherwise than the Word of God teaches profanes the name of God among us. Preserve us from this, heavenly Father!

The Second Petition

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? **Answer:** In fact, God's kingdom comes on its own without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come to us.

How does God's kingdom come? **Answer:** Whenever our heavenly Father gives us his Holy Spirit, so that through his grace we believe his Holy Word and live godly lives here in time and hereafter in eternity.

The Third Petition

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean? **Answer:** In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

How is God's will done? **Answer:** Whenever God breaks and hinders every evil scheme and will—as are present in the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh—that would not allow us to hallow God's name and would prevent the coming of his kingdom, and instead whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his Word and in faith until the end of our lives. This is his gracious and good will.

The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean? **Answer:** In fact, God gives daily bread without our prayer, even to all evil people, but we ask in this prayer that God cause us to recognize what our daily bread is and to receive it with thanksgiving.

What is meant by 'daily bread'? **Answer:** Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean? **Answer:** We ask in this prayer that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor deny these petitions on their account, for we are worthy of nothing for which we ask, nor have we earned it. Instead we ask that God would give us all things by grace, for we daily sin much and indeed deserve only punishment. So, on the other hand, we, too, truly want to forgive heartily and to do good gladly to those who sin against us.

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean? **Answer:** It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice, and that, although we may be attacked by them,⁷⁴ we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean? **Answer:** We ask in this prayer, as in a summary, that our Father in heaven may deliver us from all kinds of evil—affecting body or soul, property or reputation—and at last, when our final hour comes, may grant us a blessed end and take us by grace from this valley of tears to himself in heaven.

*For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. * Amen.*

What does this mean? **Answer:** That I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to and heard by our Father in heaven, for he himself commanded us to pray like this and has promised to hear us. “Amen, amen” means “Yes, yes, it is going to come about just like this.”¹



¹Kolb, R. 2000. *The Book of Concord : The confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Fortress Press: Minneapolis.

* These words were not in Luther's *Small Catechism*.

Katrina Aftermath--Latest Message From Lois Rost

*We will say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?" Hebrews 13:6*

What a joy to attend the LEA conference earlier this week. It was wonderful to meet so many of you and to hear your words of encouragement and support. On one hand I am glad I went. The speakers and fellowship were great. The worship services were inspiring. Oh, how easy it would have been if they were not. I keep having phrases run through my head. I try to shut them down but it is not happening.

Some of the Prince of Peace leaders want to have a reunion service on April 23rd. We have not had a service since Katrina. This service would be followed by a voter's meeting. Perhaps then, some strategy about the future of the church and school could be discussed; some decisions made.

I returned from the conference to plunge into the middle of conflict. Members of the council have voiced concern...It is too soon to have a service; it is not adequate notice to the members; no one is in town to attend; it is too expensive for members to return; it is futile to try and reopen...perhaps in 6 months, maybe a year or two, maybe in 25 years since some government official says it will be that long before New Orleans returns to normal.

It would be so easy to shut it all down. To walk away from it and let it become someone else's problem. And it is a problem. Many of you saw the pictures. Restoring the building is minor compared to bringing the people and the neighborhood back. I am so ready to walk.

Yet, I go to this conference and I get struck...and then stuck again. What is important? Going up against those mighty menacing Midianites. (At least they weren't within the same church...). Being left holding the bag like Timothy. (Sure, Paul was a great church leader, but to just leave Timothy in charge...Yikes!) Leading the Parade in Faith...Right! ...and all that jazz. So, it was time to jump back into the storm....

There seems to be a misconception here that the church belongs to the council or the congregation. But, that is not true. The church belongs to Christ and it has been entrusted to us as a means of spreading the Gospel to others and strengthening each other. That includes - especially - those who are not "members" of the church...in this case, POP.

If we put the congregation "on hold", have we fulfilled God's will? Have we spread the Good News of Salvation to those in need in New Orleans East? Have we saved one soul? Have we followed the Great Commission? What have we done for Christ? What have we accomplished? How will the situation be better in 6 months? Will the congregation be back? Will the unchurched remain unchurched? Will there suddenly be a big evangelical push from Prince of Peace? Will the congregation then be ready? Or, have we taken that talent (gift) that God has given us and buried it because we see God as the taskmaster who is demanding of us and we are fearful of stepping forward in faith? When do we trust in God to provide the strength and resources to help us fulfill His will? There will never be a time when all members are back.

There will never be a time when most church members or council members think it is appropriate to meet, much less move forward in faith. There will always be doubters and skeptics. There will be roadblocks. There will be those who attempt to impede the Lord's work.

They may succeed for a while. They may succeed in this case. But, again, I ask, what will be different in 4 months or 6 month, or even 5 years from now? Do we wait for the people to come to us, or do we reach out to save those in need...in this time, in this place. May God continue to give us all strength and courage in these most difficult and trying times. And I pray that He would send His guidance to those who make decisions that not only affect peoples' lives, but their very souls as well.

I attend St. John Lutheran on Canal Street. It is only 2 - 3 miles from the heart of the city. We still do not have electricity. The building is partially gutted. No pews. No carpet. No organ...at times, no one to play the piano. Small kerosene heaters. Yet, we have the Word and the Sacrament. The true essentials. It sort of puts the really important things into perspective.

Again, thank you all for your concern, for your continuing prayers, and I suppose, for the nudge to keep going.

In His Service,
Lois Rost, Principal
Prince of Peace Lutheran School
New Orleans, LA

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod District and Congregational Services, School Ministry, assists, equips and uplifts school educators, district staff, especially education executives and congregational leaders, so that through them children may be equipped as disciples of Jesus Christ. (04/04/06)

Groups Ablaze in the Northern Illinois District
of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
will kick-off at the District-Wide *Ablaze* Rally scheduled for:

Sunday, September 24, 2006

from **3:00 p.m.** to **5:00 p.m.**

at the **Northern Illinois University Convocation Center**
in **DeKalb, Illinois**

Featured Speakers

Dave Dravecky, former pitcher for the San Francisco Giants who lost an arm to cancer, founder of several ministries for the suffering

Scott Thomas, member Trinity, Lisle, and radio talk show host on WYLL

Dr. John Nunes, pastor, author and speaker who lives in Chicago

Groups Ablaze is not a program but a process designed to help local congregations reach out to their unchurched neighbors through small group methodology. Small Group activity has typically centered around nurture of present members in most congregations. ***Groups Ablaze*** is designed to promote outreach and mission.

Biblical Verse Theme – **Luke 10:1** — “After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.””

For more information, go to <http://www.ni.lcms.org/forms/Ablaze2006.html>

31 of God's Children Discovered the Riches of Christ

It was a pleasure
To teach children of the Son most treasured.
With an unbeatable crew
The children spiritually grew.

Special thanks to Anna and Pastor Bocklage, Celeste Oslakovic and Barb Tebo our Teachers. Adair Banta (our craft helper), Arlene Banks, Shirley Burkett, Gail Henson, Erma Johnson, Anna O'Neal, Sue Stegman (our kitchen helpers and more); Marge Ketchum and Grace Scott (our pre-school helpers) and Christina and Elise Trojanowski (our games directors). Thank you to all who donated in any way. Thank you to all the Trojanowskis for distributing flyers to the neighborhood.

