

FAITH NEWSLETTER

April / May 2009

Dear Friends in Faith,



It's been a long winter. The cold and snow making driving miserable, and many folks choose to stay inside. The weather kills many plants and causes others to go dormant, leaving a bleak, desolate landscape.

Not only is winter cold and snowy, it is dark and depressing. The lack of sunlight can actually affect your mood, making you feel sleepy, robbing you of your energy and leads to depression.

For many folks in our congregation it's been a difficult winter. Our organist, Dr. Betty Baker, had a bad fall on New Year's Day. We said farewell to Rosemary Peterson in February. Other members have lost loved ones, been sick, hospitalized and undergone surgeries in the past few months.

And so now we are glad to welcome back the sunshine and the warmth of spring. Spring brings not only nicer weather (if you don't mind those "April showers"), but also the joy of Easter.

One ancient hymn-writer put it like this:

This the spring of souls today: Christ has burst His prison
And from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
From His light, to Whom is given laud and praise undying.

The joy of the Easter resurrection brings light and joy to our lives. It not only chases away the cold and gloom of winter, but also the long, dark "winter of our sins." The Easter message gives us joy and hope in the face of the darkness of sin and death. Because Jesus is risen, we too will be raised from the dead. Death will not be the end of us, because we belong to Him. Beyond the winter of this world, the eternal spring of heaven awaits us.

As you see the sun rise and feel the warmth return this spring, as you enjoy the new life blooming all around you, remember the morning of that first Easter. Remember the women who went early in the morning, expecting to find a dead body lying in a grave. Remember the words of the angels, "He is not here, he is risen, just as he said!" Remember the surprise and the joy when Jesus appeared to Mary and the disciples.

The resurrection of Jesus will give you hope even in the dark days of winter. Winter may come for you in January, April or July, whenever your world suddenly becomes cold and desolate. In these times, remember that Christ is risen and that spring is just around the corner.

Have a blessed Easter,

Pastor Mark Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

The March ladies soup supper was another "Souper Delicious event". Thanks to the ladies who shared their special recipes with us.

We discussed plans on helping to modernize the Parsonage kitchen. This much needed improvement will be underway soon.

April 2nd will be our sandwich supper meeting at 6:30 PM. All ladies of Faith are invited.

Final plans for the Rummage Sale will be discussed. This event will take place on Sat. May 2nd from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM. We will also hold a bake sale that day. Please consider cleaning out your closets, basements and attics and donating your items to the sale. Your re-useable items are much needed by someone else. Clothing, shoes, household items are acceptable. You can drop off your items anytime after April 19th. Your baked goods can be dropped off May 1st or the day of the sale. We appreciate your help with this event.

May the joy of our Risen Savior be with all of you this Easter and always.

Kathleen Nowak

Anniversary Celebration

Our special anniversary celebration was a great success. Due to the generosity of many, we received over \$4,800 in contributions to our anniversary fund.

A discussion was held at our most recent congregation meeting as to how we could put this money to good use. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to use half of the money toward new hymnals and the second half would be retained in the treasury for use on the church properties. Again we thank everyone who made this event possible and who showed their love toward Faith Church.

Vacation Bible School

Plan on joining us for a fun filled week at Vacation Bible School. We've set aside the week of June 22 - 26th. So mark your calendar and watch for more information about G.A.D.G.E.T. (God's Always Doing Great, Exciting Things!). This year our culminating event will be a church picnic at Wolfe Wildlife Center.

"An Evening with Jesus"

We are continuing with our once a month Bible School. Thursday, April 16th from 6:00 PM until 7:30 PM we will be meeting in the Parish Hall for a celebration of Jesus' love with Bible stories, crafts, songs and refreshments. If you are between the ages of 3 years and 12 years, you are invited to an exciting and fun evening. Bring a friend so we can all learn about the special gifts given to us through Jesus. Our last event for the season will be on May 15, 2009. We look forward to seeing you at Vacation Bible School.

Food Pantry

Due to the extensive use of our food pantry in the past few months, we are running low on many items. We would appreciate any kind of help you might be able to provide. The following items are always needed.

Cereal
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Pasta
Soups
Canned vegetables, chicken, tuna
Canned Ravioli
Spaghetti
Applesauce
Paper products

You may place items in the box in the Narthex.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lock In

Concordia University, Chicago hosted a Junior High lock-in on their campus on March 20-21. Around 50 youth from across the Chicagoland area were in attendance, including six from our congregation.

The evening (and morning) was filled with Bible Studies, games, and songs, all led by students at the University. The theme was "Bible-Ade", focusing on Jesus' Word as living water, the ultimate thirst-quencher.

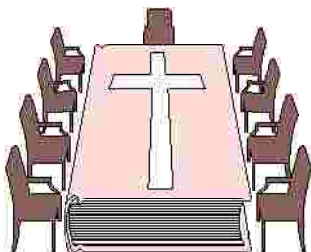
Our youth enjoyed this opportunity for fun and fellowship with other young Lutherans.

Schedule of April / May 2009 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>April Event</u>
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
9	7:00 PM	Maunday Thursday Worship / Communion
10	3:00 PM	Good Friday Worship
	7:00 PM	Good Friday Worship
12	7:00 AM	Easter Worship / Communion
	8:30 AM	Easter Breakfast
	10:00 AM	Easter Worship / Communion
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
26	9:00 PM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	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 - 3:30 PM F - 6:30 PM
ALANON	Tu - 7:00 PM
Choir	W - 6:30 PM
Ladies Aid	(First) - Th. - 7:00 PM
Evening with Jesus	(Third) Th. - 6:00 PM
Adventure	(First) - Sun. - 7:00 PM
Crew	



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>May 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	Congregation Meeting
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
24	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
31	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Picnic

As we approach summer, we think of picnics.

June 28th is our annual church picnic. Please save the date and plan on joining us. More information will be in the next newsletter.

Congregation Meeting

Our next congregation meeting will on Sunday May 10th following worship. Please plan on participating as we attend to the business of Faith.

Confirmation

A.J. Bray, Taylor Newton and Jacob Rheinwald will be confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009.

New Members

We welcome our new members: James Hendler and Tim, Chris, Max, and Lewis Radosevich. We are glad you are with us to worship Our Lord and share with us His blessings.

April / May Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Apr. 5 Ed Neaves
Ray Benneett
Nick Trojanowski
Mark Trojanowski

Apr. 12 **Easter 7:00 AM**
Alden Ketchum
Bill Weems
Glen Werth
Howard Johnson

Easter 10:00 AM
Gene Osmanski
Frank Oslakovic
Gail Henson
Mary Slepiski

Apr. 19 Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett
Elise Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

Apr. 26 Richard Clark
Franny Rheinwald
A.J. Bray

Lenten Services

Apr. 1 **Wednesday 7:00 PM**
Richard Clark
Glenn Werth

Apr. 9 **Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM**
Gene Osmanski
Frank Oslakovic
Howard Johnson
Alden Ketchum

Apr. 10 **Good Friday 3:00 PM**
Ed Neaves
Alden Ketchum

Good Friday 7:00 PM
Frank Oslakovic
Richard Clark

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

May 3 Alden Ketchum
Bill Weems
Howard Johnson
Glen Werth

May 10 Richard Clark
Dory Moeller
Franny Rheinwald

May 17 Gene Osmanski
Frank Oslakovic
Gail Henson
Mary Slepiski

May 24 Richard Clark
Mark Trojanowski
Elise Trojanowski

May 31 Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett
Glen Werth
Howard Johnson

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Apr. 5 Ray Bennett

Apr. 12 **Easter 7:00 AM**
Bill Weems
Easter 10:00 AM
Gene Osmanski

Apr. 19 Nick Trojanowski

Apr. 26 Ed Neaves

May 3 Elise Trojanowski

May 10 Ray Bennett

May 17 Debbie Hochgesang

May 24 Mark Trojanowski

May 31 Ed Neaves

