

FAITH NEWSLETTER

June / July 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

Today three members of our congregation will be confirmed. I remember our own confirmation days and reflect on the gifts given to us through this rite.

It's a good time to
the Lord has



I was confirmed on October 25, 1992 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton Township, Michigan by Pastor Harry Henneman. The tradition of the congregation was to celebrate confirmation on Reformation Sunday. We had a large class of about 35-40 confirmands.

My confirmation verse is John 17:3, "Now this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." I chose this verse because I thought confirmation was all about knowledge.

We had spent years learning and memorizing Bible verses and sections of the catechism. We learned about who God was and what He had done for us. We took tests and quizzes, we had a workbook we used for homework, and it seemed to be all about what we knew. So I made the conclusion that being a Christian is all about knowing the right answers.

Now it is important that we know all these things. As Lutherans we place a high value on Christian education, and rightly so. But eternal life is more than just knowing the right answers.

In Biblical terms, knowledge is experiential. You know someone by having an active relationship with them. You can know all about someone, you can read their biography and learn all the details about their life, but if you've never met, never talked, never shared a meal, you don't truly know them.

Eternal life is about knowing God. It's not just knowing the facts about who God is and studying Him the way that you'd study Alexander the Great or William Shakespeare or George Washington, but it's about having an ongoing relationship with Him.

This is something that God Himself initiates and continues to work in us. He started the relationship in Holy Baptism and made you a part of His family. He builds and strengthens the relationship through the conversations that you have – He speaks in His Word and you speak back in prayer. Sunday after Sunday He invites you to have a meal with Him. This is what it means to know God.

And it never stops. It never gets to the point where you can say, "I know God completely, inside and out." The verb in John 17:3 for "know" is a present tense. Knowing God is active and ongoing. It doesn't stop at confirmation, but keeps going throughout all our life.

As we see these members of our family confirmed, take a moment to reflect on your confirmation day. Dig out those pictures and church bulletins, if you have them. Look up your confirmation verse. And thank God for everything He's done for you throughout your life.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Mark Birkholz



In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

Thanks to all who made the Ladies Rummage Sale a success. To all of you who baked, donated and worked so hard in setting up and the day of the sale we could not have done it without your enthusiasm.

We are now determining how to further assist Faith in the many forthcoming projects.

Our last meeting and social will be Thursday, June 4th at 6:30 PM. This will be a pizza and bunco party. We invite all ladies of the congregation and especially those who assisted us at the Rummage Sale. Just let Mary or Gail know so we can order accordingly.

Enjoy the summer, and we'll see you at our first meeting on Sept. 10th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

Kathleen Nowak

Food Pantry

The food pantry doesn't take a summer vacation. 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.

Church Picnic

June 28th at Wolfe Wildlife Refuge 109th & Larimie.

We start with a service at 11:00 AM followed by a fun time.

We provide the hot dogs and soda. You bring a dish for the common table and your utensils. Please bring a \$5.00 wrapped prize for the Bingo games.

See you there.

Join us for
Vacation Bible School
G.A.D.G.E.T.
God's Always Doing Great,



Exciting Things!

Gadgets and Gizmos
Inventions and more
Join us as God's greatness
We explore

Come be a part of a fun,
exciting week.
Meet some new
friends.



We look forward to meeting you.
Just bring yourself, a friend, if
you can, and your enthusiasm.

Parent or guardian required for first day registration.

When: June 22nd – 26th with a
Culminating Picnic on June 28th

Where: Faith Lutheran Church
9701 S. Melvina Ave.
Oak Lawn, IL.

Time: 9:30AM – 12:00 PM Noon

Who: Children age 3 yrs. old – 8th Gr.

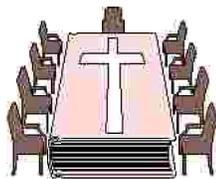
For more information contact Faith
Church at 708-424-1059

Schedule of June / July 2009 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>June Event</u>
6	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
7	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
14	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
20	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
21	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
28	9:00 PM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	11:00 AM	Worship @ Wolfe Wildlife Refuge & Church Picnic

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
Adventure Crew	(First) - Sun. - 7:00 PM



Congratulations

A.J. Bray, Taylor Newton and Jacob Rheinwald on your Confirmation.

Clean Up Day

We are trying to keep our church properties looking nice.

Our next clean-up day is June 27th from 9:00 AM until noon. Plan on joining us as we sort through years of collected items and also make needed repairs and improvements.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>July Event</u>
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
12	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Hymnal Donations

Our congregation has decided to make the transition to the Lutheran Service Book. You now have the opportunity to help us fill our pews with new hymnals.

In the Divine Service we join our voices with the angels and the whole company of heaven. You may choose to dedicate these hymnals to your loved ones who have now joined the heavenly chorus, or to people whom the Lord has used in special ways to bless your life.

The hymnals cost \$23.00 each.

Please fill out the bottom portion of this form and return it with your payment.

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Number of hymnals donated _____ .

Please select one of the options below:

Given in Memory of

_____ (name of deceased loved one[s])

by

_____ (your name[s])

Given in Honor of

_____ (name of living loved one[s])

by

_____ (your name[s])

I wish for this donation to remain anonymous.

June / July Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

June 7 Bill Weems
Alden Ketchum
Nick Trojanowski
Glen Werth

June 14 Gene Osmanski
Ray Bennett
Tim Radosevich

June 21 Frank Oslakovic
Gene Osmanski
Elise Trojanowski
Mark Trojanowski

June 28 Richard Clark
Mary Slepki
Gail Henson

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

June 7 Bill Weems

June 14 Ray Bennett

June 21 Gene Osmanski

June 28 Debbie Hochgesang

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

July 5 Alden Ketchum
Bill Weems
Dory Moeller
Glen Werth

July 12 Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett
Howard Johnson

July 19 Gene Osmanski
Frank Oslakovic
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

July 26 Richard Clark
AJ Bray
Franny Rheinwald

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

July 5 Mark Trojanowski

July 12 Elise Trojanowski

July 19 Ed Neaves

July 26 Ray Bennett

