

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

Aug. / Sept. 2009

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Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write to you, it has been one year since I was ordained and installed as your pastor. In many ways the year has passed quickly, but my life beforehand seems like the distant past.

There have been many occasions to rejoice in the past year. We have seen the Lord at work each week in the divine service. He teaches us, He feeds us, and He blesses us. Children have been baptized, young people confirmed, and several families have joined our congregation. In March we celebrated over fifty years of blessings in this church building.

There have also been difficult times in the past year. Families have lost loved ones. Some members whom we're used to seeing every week can no longer attend due to health issues. We struggle to keep the younger members actively engaged in the life of the congregation.

If you have been blessed by my service as pastor in the past year, give thanks to God. I am only here to deliver His gifts to you, and so the praise, honor, and glory belong to Him alone.

Where I have failed you as your pastor in the past year, I ask for your forgiveness.

It is a joy and a blessing to be your pastor. You have cared for me and for my family well. You have provided us with a home and generous salary, as well as frequent words of encouragement.

In the years ahead, I ask for your continued prayers and support. As we look forward to our continued service together, we trust in the Lord, and not our own strength.

I'll leave you with Martin Luther's "Sacristy Prayer." I pray this prayer every Sunday before entering the sanctuary. It's written for pastors, but it's a helpful reminder to all of us that the Lord works through us to build up the church.

"Lord God, You have placed me in Your Church as a bishop and pastor. You see how unfit I am to administer this great and difficult office. Had it not been for Your wisdom and guidance, I would have ruined everything long ago. Therefore I call on You. I gladly offer my mouth and heart to Your service. I would teach the people, and I myself would continue to learn. To this end I will meditate diligently on Your Word. Use me, dear Lord, as Your instrument. Only do not forsake me; for if I were to continue alone, I would quickly ruin everything."

Amen.

**Pastor Mark Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Ladies Aid

We hope all our ladies are being energized with new enthusiasm during this summer break from meetings.

September 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM we will hold our first fall meeting in the Parish Hall. You do not have to be a member to attend our meetings. Come and join us for an evening of Christian fellowship as we make plans for our fall projects.

Kathleen Nowak

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## Food Pantry

The food pantry is an on-going project that reaches many community members. We would appreciate any kind of help you might be able to provide. The following items are always needed:

Canned Fruit  
Soups: especially cream soups (no tomato)  
Canned Beans: kidney beans, pork & beans, etc.  
(not green beans)  
Instant Mashed Potatoes  
Pasta Sauce  
Apple Sauce  
Vegetable Oil  
Cereal  
Paper products

You may place items in the box in the Narthex.

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## A New Church Service

A new opportunity has become available for many of us to hear the Word of God.

The second Tuesday of every month we are offering a church service in the Parish Hall. The service begins at 1:00 PM and will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup>, and October 13<sup>th</sup>.

This service is an alternative service for anyone who might otherwise have difficulty entering the church sanctuary. However, all are welcome. Remember this might be a way to invite neighbors and friends.

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## Giving to Others

Through our VBS offerings, we were able to send enough money to purchase six honeybee hives for families and children in need. Our kids learned to share with others.

## Vacation Bible School

Again we have had another successful VBS. Twenty three children attended our sessions, where we learned about Jesus, sang songs, made crafts and played.

We couldn't have been successful without the help of many people. Our thanks go to Shirley Burkett, Anna O'Neal, and Arlene Banks - our wonderful kitchen crew and all around helpers.

Christina Trojanowski, Christine Radosevich, and Lynne Trojanowski worked wonders with the crafts.

Joyce Stroh did a fantastic job painting on our children's faces.

Our newest helpers A.J. Bray, Max Radosevich, Jake and Frannie Rheinwald were great with the kids.

Marge Ketchum, Louise DeVries, and Ed Neaves all gave of their time too.

Our thanks wouldn't be complete without giving our gratitude to Barb Tebo and Brittney Rheinwald who so caringly worked with our youngest attendees.

God's Blessings

Pastor Birkholz & Celeste Oslakovic

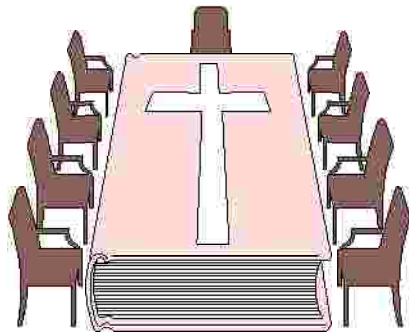


# Schedule of Aug. / Sept. 2009 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Aug. Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
2	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
9	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Children's Msg.</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
15	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
16	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
23	<b>9:00 PM</b>	<b>Worship / Children's Msg.</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
30	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>

## Weekly Meetings

Evening with Jesus	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs. 6:00 PM
Afternoon Church	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. 1:00 PM
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	(First) - Sun. - 7:00 PM
Crew	



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

## Evening with Jesus

Mark your calendar for September 17<sup>th</sup>. This is the date for our children's night of bible class. We begin at 6:00 PM and end around 7:30 PM.

We will hear Bible stories, make a craft, sing, have a snack and play some games.

We will learn about Noah and his encounter with God in September. Come join us and bring a friend.

We will meet on the third Thursday each month.

October 16<sup>th</sup>, we will learn about Joseph.

November 19<sup>th</sup> we will learn about Jonah.

December 17<sup>th</sup> we will again cherish the time to prepare for the birth of Jesus as we hear the Christmas story.

So don't forget to mark your calendars! We'll see you there.

## Fall on the Green

This year Faith Church will have table at Fall on the Green in Oak Lawn. The dates are Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM and Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM. This is a great opportunity to reach out to the families in our community. We will be in need of volunteers to distribute literature about Faith. It would be great if many of you volunteer so we can have everyone doing short shifts. Contact Pastor if you think you can help.

# Aug. / Sept. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

## Worship      9:00 AM Sunday

**Aug. 2**      Bill Weems  
Alden Ketchum  
Nick Trojanowski  
Glen Werth

**Aug. 9**      Gene Osmanski  
Ray Bennett  
Tim Radosevich

**Aug. 16**      Frank Oslakovic  
Ed Neaves  
Elise Trojanowski  
Mark Trojanowski

**Aug. 23**      Richard Clark  
Mary Slepiski  
Gail Henson

**Aug. 30**      Bill Weems  
Alden Ketchum  
Howard Johnson  
Glen Werth

## Lay Readers      9:00 AM Sunday

**Aug. 2**      Bill Weems

**Aug. 9**      Ray Bennett

**Aug. 16**      Ed Neaves

**Aug. 23**      Nick Trojanowski

**Aug. 30**      Debbie Hochgesang

## Worship      9:00 AM Sunday

**Sept. 6**      Gene Osmanski  
Ed Neaves  
Ray Bennett  
Nick Trojanowski

**Sept. 13**      Richard Clark  
Howard Johnson  
Tim Radosevich

**Sept. 20**      Frank Oslakovic  
Bill Weems  
Mary Slepiski  
Gail Henson

**Sept. 27**      Alden Ketchum  
AJ Bray  
Franny Rheinwald

## Lay Readers      9:00 AM Sunday

**Sept. 6**      Gene Osmanski

**Sept. 13**      Mark Trojanowski

**Sept. 20**      Ed Neaves

**Sept. 27**      Ray Bennett

