

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

April / May. 2010

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

**“So where do you go from here?”**



The question caught me by surprise at a recent funeral. First, I thought he wanted directions to the cemetery or the luncheon. As it turns out, he was asking about my “professional career.” He assumed that serving as pastor of a small congregation was an entry-level position, and that eventually I’d move on to bigger and better things.

I explained to him that I was blessed to be pastor of this congregation, and I’d be here as long as God would have use of me here. Although I don’t plan to leave Faith (and I hope you don’t either), we should still constantly be asking one another, **“Where do we go from here?”**

Our tendency as Christians and as a church is to get stuck, and to stop going places. We get comfortable where we are and settle in. We stop growing in our spiritual lives. We are content with what we do as a church. Instead, God has called us to keep moving.

If you look at the life of Jesus Christ, He was constantly going places. He was on the move from town to town. He traveled to Jerusalem, even to the cross. He traveled to Hell and back, from death to life. Even after the resurrection, Jesus is still on the go. Jesus met with His disciples and eventually returned to heaven. Then the disciples were on the move, spreading the good news to the ends of the earth.

Even though we all plan to stick with this church in the years to come, **we still need to be on the move and going places together.** Whether it’s growing in our outreach to our friends and neighbors, or in doing works of mercy in our community, or by expanding our Christian education programs, or by caring for the sick and shut-ins, or whatever else God gives us to do, there’s always more we can be doing, always more places to go.

The good news is that Jesus goes with us. When He sends out the disciples, He promises, “I will be with you always, to the end of the age.” Wherever we go, we don’t go alone.

So the question is posed back to you. **“So where do you go from here?”** It begins by going to the Lord’s house, going to hear His words, going to the altar to receive His gifts. From there, God blesses you and sends you out on your way.

Sent forth by God’ blessing,  
Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The Supper is ended,  
O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of His teaching,  
Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us  
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

Peace be with you,

**Pastor Mark Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Ladies Aid

Rejoice in the Risen Lord!

Spring and Easter are once again among us. Our ladies have sprung into action with planned activities. We do pray you will be able to attend our meetings and functions.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>** is our next meeting due to Maundy Thurs. worship service. We will make final plans for the Rummage Sale on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 2:00. Your help is needed for baked goods and gently used household items and clothing. You will be able to drop off your items in the church basement from April 11<sup>th</sup> thru the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The church basement will be in use on April 10<sup>th</sup>

May 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM is our meeting and Ice Cream Social and June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 is our Pizza Party and Games night. All ladies are invited. Come join us for good fellowship and service.

Kathleen Nowak, Membership

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## LWML

On April 10th, Faith LWML will host the spring LWML meeting. Breakfast will be served at 9:00AM and the meeting will follow. All ladies are invited. We will learn about the activities for the coming year.

Grace Scott

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## Evening with Jesus

We continue learning about Jesus and Bible stories through lessons, songs and crafts. Mark your calendar for April 15th and May.20th so you can join all the kids for a fun evening beginning at 6:00 PM and ending at 7:30 PM.

✓ All members of Faith are invited to attend the closing service for Evening with Jesus at 7:00 PM May 20<sup>th</sup>. Come show the children how much you care.

## VBS

Make plans for a wonderful week of VBS fun. Our kick off will be the church picnic on Sun. June 20<sup>th</sup> at Wolfe Wildlife Refuge 109<sup>th</sup> and Larimee at 11:00 AM. VBS will be the week of June 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30 noon. More info to come.

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## Parish Hall Divine Services

Once again, we will be having services in the Parish Hall once a month, from April through October. They will be held on the second Tuesday of each month (April 13, May 11, etc.).

These services are especially for those who have difficulty with the stairs coming into the sanctuary, but all are welcome to attend. Services begin at 1:00 PM and are followed by a time for refreshments and fellowship.

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## Nursing Home Services

The April Schedule will be:

Brighton Gardens Service: 10:30 AM, April 7  
Tinley Court Service: 3:30PM, April 28

Pastor Birkholz is not scheduled for Tinley Court in May.

The May schedule for Brighton Gardens has not been set.

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## Easter Eggstravaganza

Make plans to join us on Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM. All kids are invited to join in an Easter Egg Hunt along with an afternoon of fun activities. There will be crafts and refreshments so bring a friend.

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## Easter Breakfast

Join us for breakfast after the 7:00 AM Easter Worship service or before the 10:00 AM Easter Worship service.

Please contact the church office or use the posted sign up sheet so we can better prepare.

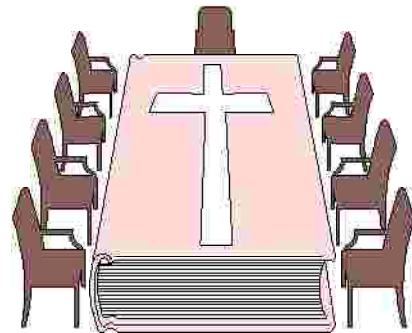
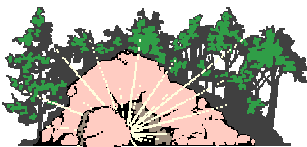
# Schedule of April / May. 2010 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>April Event</u>
1	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Worship / Communion
2	3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Good Friday Worship Good Friday Worship
3	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
4	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	
	7:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	8:15 AM	Easter Breakfast
	9:00 AM	Easter Breakfast
	10:00 AM	Worship / Communion
11	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship / Children's Msg. Adult Bible Class
17	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
18	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship / Communion Adult Bible Class
25	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg. Adult Bible Class

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

## Weekly Meetings

Evening with Jesus	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs. 6:00 PM
Afternoon Worship	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. 1:00 PM
AA Groups	M & F - 6:00 PM Sat - 8:00 AM
<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Fri. - 10:30 AM</b>
Girl Scouts	Tu - 3:30 PM F - 6:30 PM
ALANON	Tu - 7:30 PM
Ladies Aid	(First) - Th. - 7:00 PM
Adventure	(First) - Sun. - 7:00 PM



# April / May. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

## Worship      9:00 AM Sunday

**April 4**      **EASTER 7:00 AM**  
 Bill Weems  
 Alden Ketchum  
 Nick Trojanowski  
 Mark Trojanowski

**EASTER 10:00 AM**  
 Frank Oslakovic  
 Gene Osmanski  
 Ed Neaves  
 Ray Bennett

**April 11**      Richard Clark  
 Glenn Werth  
 Howard Johnson

**April 18**      Alden Ketchum  
 Bill Weems  
 Mary Slepski  
 Gail Henson

**April 25**      Ed Neaves  
 A.J. Bray  
 Ray Bennett

## Holy Week Services

**April 1**      **MAUNDY THUR. 7:00 PM**  
 Richard Clark  
 Bill Weems  
 Alden Ketchum  
 Howard Johnson

**April 2**      **GOOD FRIDAY 3:00 PM**  
 Ed Neaves  
 Glenn Werth

**GOOD FRIDAY 7:00 PM**  
 Frank Oslakovic  
 Gene Osmanski

## Lay Readers      9:00 AM Sunday

**April 4**      **EASTER 7:00 AM**  
 Bill Weems  
  
**EASTER 10:00 AM**  
 Ed Neaves

**April 11**      Debbie Hochgesang

**April 18**      Mark Trojanowski

**April 25**      Ray Bennett

## Worship      9:00 AM Sunday

**May 2**      Gene Osmanski  
 Frank Oslakovic  
 Glenn Werth  
 Howard Johnson

**May 9**      Richard Clark  
 Nick Trojanowski  
 Mark Trojanowski

**May 16**      Bill Weems  
 Ed Neaves  
 Ray Bennett  
 Nick Trojanowski

**May 23**      Alden Ketchum  
 Gail Henson  
 Mary Slepski

**May 30**      Richard Clark  
 Frank Oslakovic  
 Glenn Werth  
 Howard Johnson

## Lay Readers      9:00 AM Sunday

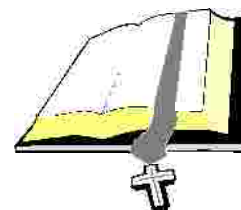
**May 2**      Gene Osmanski

**May 9**      Nick Trojanowski

**May 16**      Mark Trojanowski

**May 23**      Ed Neaves

**May 30**      Ray Bennett



# Birthdays and Anniversaries

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## April Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Daniel Konrath (1<sup>st</sup>); Eugene and Diane Osmanski (anniversary 11<sup>th</sup>); Alan Wheeler (15<sup>th</sup>); Marlis Lee (16<sup>th</sup>); Dory Moeller (18<sup>th</sup>); Louis and Deborah Mirocha (anniversary 19<sup>th</sup>); Jeffery and Michelle Vaughan (anniversary 20<sup>th</sup>); Kristie Machtan (21<sup>st</sup>); Ken & Tracey Breitbath (anniversary 24<sup>th</sup>); Richard and Eileen Clark (anniversary 24<sup>th</sup>); Jeff Robbins (24<sup>th</sup>); Colleen Weems (24<sup>th</sup>); Albert De Vries (25<sup>th</sup>); Eileen Clark (29<sup>th</sup>); Arlene Banks (29<sup>th</sup>).

## May Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Tom Mackey (4th), Frank and Celeste Oslakovic (anniversary 4th); Laura Katula (6th); Valerie Austra (7th); Evelyn Luer (8th); Lisa Goggin (9th); Thomas and Karen Robbins (anniversary 10th); Mary Slepski (10th); Jeffery Vaughan (11th); Jason Karas (18th); James Lassandrello (21st); John & Lisa Goggin (anniversary 22nd); Michelle Vaughan (23rd); Donald and Kathleen Nowak (anniversary 24th); Logan Konrath (26th) Tori Newton (27th); Lori Slepski (28th).



&  
Anniversary



**Pray for our congregation and our leaders  
that the Lord would give us wisdom and guidance  
as we move forward  
and continue Reaching Out to Build  
*Christ - Centered Families of Faith.***

**WEB SITE**

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9701 S. MELVINA AVE.  
OAK LAWN, IL 60453-2717  
(708) 424-1059**



**“Building Christ-Centered Families of Faith”**

**«Mailing\_Label\_Name»**

**«Street\_Address\_1»**

**«Street\_Address\_2»**

**«City», «State» «ZIP\_Code»**