

FAITH NEWSLETTER

Feb. / Mar. 2011



Dear Friends in Christ,

On January 6, I had the privilege of celebrating the Lord's Supper at our circuit Epiphany service. It was a joyful celebration of our Lord's appearing to us and being manifest in the flesh and blood of our humanity.

The church was packed. There were 120 people in attendance (the most we've had since our anniversary service nearly two years ago). The music was inspiring. The sermon delivered law and gospel. It was a joy to be a part of this magnificent service, and to come together to receive our Lord's body and blood.

But that was not the only Lord's Supper I celebrated that day. Earlier in the afternoon I visited with Bud and Marilyn Diehl in Bud's room at the Bridgeview Health Care Center. The setting was much more humble, and there were only three of us in attendance. But Jesus was there with us along with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven.

Bud is suffering from Alzheimer's, which has robbed him of the ability to recognize most people or remember even the simplest details of his life. But there are a few things that Bud remembers.

We began the service by singing "Jesus Loves Me" and closed with the common doxology ("Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"). We sang together the Offertory ("Create in me a clean heart, O God,"), the Agnus Dei ("O Jesus Christ, Thou Lamb of God") and the Nunc Dimittis ("Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace"). Bud didn't remember every word, but joined in a few times and sang along.

My experiences that day at both services reminded me why we sing the liturgy, and why we use it consistently.

First, it gives us a common bond to share with our brothers and sisters in Christ in other congregations. At the Epiphany service, there were people in attendance from at least eight or ten other LCMS congregations. Yet because we shared a common liturgy, we could all sing along together quite easily. If we all did our own thing each week, we would lose that common voice. It would make it much more difficult to worship together or to visit other congregations.

Second, the consistency gives us something to hold onto when all else is gone. Bud Diehl is the longest serving member of Faith; he was confirmed here in 1945. Because he sang this liturgy consistently each week, he learned it by heart. Singing the liturgy makes it easier to remember, as the tune sometimes helps the words to follow.

Sometimes people wonder why we don't use more variety in worship. While there are some things that change from week to week (e.g. the readings, the hymns, and the prayers), much stays the same. There are reasons for this, as I experienced on Epiphany this year. Using a common liturgy consistently connects us to other Christians, and it helps these texts live on in you when all else fails.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

Yes, the cold of winter is upon us, but the warmth of our beautiful Christmas season keeps our hearts and faith warm.

2910 ended with heaven receiving another of our angels. Evelyn Luer was a faithful member and will be remembered for her fine embroidery and stories of Wisconsin.

Plans for our Spring Rummage Sale are in the making. More details will be in the church bulletin. Please start to save your gently used articles of clothing and housewares.

We hope you made a New Year Resolution to join us on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. See you Feb. 3rd.

Chairman Kathleen Nowak

Home Blessings

St. Paul writes in 1 Timothy 4, "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer."

Our homes are holy places, blessed by the Word of God and prayer. In the Lutheran Service Book Agenda, we read, "It is appropriate that homes of Christians be blessed by the Word of God and prayer..."

Homes may be blessed annually. Usually this is done during the season of Epiphany due to the connection of the visitation of the Magi to the home of the infant Christ (Matt 2:1-11; John 1:14)..." The season of Epiphany will begin on January 6, and continue until Ash Wednesday (March 9). If you would like to have Pastor Birkholz bless your home, please contact the church office.

Family Night

We will gather on the evenings of Friday, February 11th and March 4th for a time of fun, fellowship and service. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Mass Lock – In

Zion Lutheran Church in Lyons is hosting a lock-in for all junior and senior high youth in the area. It will begin at 7:00 PM on Friday, February 18 and conclude at 8:00 AM on Saturday morning. Rides to and from Faith are available.

A youth ministry team from Concordia University will be there to help lead the event. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information or a permission slip, please see Pastor Birkholz

Lenten Devotions

The season of Lent is a time of special devotion to prepare us to celebrate our Lord's Passion and Resurrection. For our Lenten devotions this year, we will be using the theme, "Portraits of a Savior," and we are giving the members of Faith an opportunity to contribute brief meditations that will be compiled and distributed to the congregation. All devotions will need to be written by February 20. For more details and to sign up for a topic, please see Pastor Birkholz.

Lenten Services

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which falls on March 9th this year. Our midweek services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM.

Except for Ash Wednesday, there will be a time for refreshments and fellowship following each service. The groups listed below are kindly asked to provide refreshments for these services.

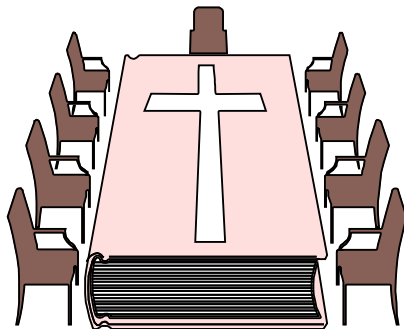
March 9	Imposition of Ashes and Lord's Supper
March 16	"I Am the Bread of Life" (Elders)
March 23	"I Am the Light of the World" (Ladies' Aid)
March 30	"I Am the Door" (Trustees and Fellowship)
April 6	"I Am the Good Shepherd" (Choir and Altar Guild)
April 13	"I Am the True Vine" (Youth and Young Adults)

Schedule of Feb. / Mar. 2011 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>February Event</u>
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
13	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	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 / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

Afternoon Worship	2 nd Tues. - 1:00 PM
Ladies Aid	1 st Thurs. - 7:00 PM
Evening with Jesus	3 rd Thurs. - 6:00 PM
Bible Study	Fri. - 10:30 AM
Family Night	1 st Fri. - 6:00 PM
AA Groups	M & F - 6:00 PM
	Sat - 8:00 AM
Girl Scouts	Tu - 3:30 PM F - 6:30 PM
ALANON	Tu - 7:30 PM
Adventure	1 st Sun. - 7:00 PM



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>March Event</u>
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
9	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship / Communion
13	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Cla00ss
16	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
23	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
27	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
30	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship

Hymns of the Month

February / Epiphany

“Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower”
(LSB # 694)

This hymn focuses on Jesus as our source of strength and light, as our friend, and our guide through life. Our love for Him flows from what He has done for us, and not any desire for reward.

March / Lent

“Jesus, Grant that Balm and Healing” (LSB # 421)

One of the great paradoxes of our faith is that Jesus’ suffering and death is a good thing for us. In this hymn, we sing of all the benefits we have through Jesus’ crucifixion. Our faith is strengthened by Jesus’ example, and we have the assurance of salvation and eternal life through His death for us.

Feb. / Mar. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Feb. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 6 Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth
Nick Trojanowski
Mark Trojanowski

Feb. 13 Alden Ketchum
Ed Neaves
A.J. Bray
Ray Bennett

Feb. 20 Frank Oslakovic
Bill Weems
Howard Johnson
Richard Clark

Feb. 27 Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth
Mary Slepiski
Gail Henson

Lenten Worship 7:00 PM Wednesday

Mar. 9 Richard Clark
Howard Johnson
Glen Werth

Mar. 16 Alden Ketchum
Frank Oslakovic
Mark Trojanowski

Mar. 23 Gene Osmanski
Gail Henson
Mary Slepiski

Mar. 30 Ed Neaves
Glen Werth
Richard Clark

Mar. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Mar. 6 Ed Neaves
Alden Ketchum
Nick Trojanowski
Mark Trojanowski

Mar. 13 Bill Weems
Frank Oslakovic
Ray Bennett
Howard Johnson

Mar. 20 Richard Clark
Glen Werth
Nick Trojanowski
A.J. Bray

Mar. 27 Gene Osmanski
Alden Ketchum
Howard Johnson
Mark Trojanowski

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 6 Mark Trojanowski

Feb. 13 Ray Bennett

Feb. 20 Jim Kramer

Feb. 27 Gene Osmanski

Mar. 6 Ed Neaves

Mar. 13 Bill Weems

Mar. 20 Nick Trojanowski

Mar. 27 Debbie Hochgesang

