

FAITH NEWSLETTER

April / May 2011



Dear Friends in Christ,

This Lenten season, we have been listening to the call of Hebrews and our gradual, "Come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus..." In our daily devotions, our sermons, our Bible Studies, and our midweek services, we have been intentionally focusing on Jesus Christ.

It may seem obvious, but Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection are at the center of who we are and everything we do as a congregation.

There are many other groups you can join or places you can go to socialize with your friends, sing inspiring songs, hear motivational speeches, listen to interesting presentations, and do some good in the community. Many civic and social groups do these things much better than we do.

What makes the church different is that Jesus Christ is the center of who we are and what we do.

We greet one another warmly and enjoy one another's company, not because we're nice, friendly people, but because Jesus Christ died for each of us. We're all sinners in need of forgiveness.

We sing the songs we do, not because they are fun to sing or move us emotionally, but because they proclaim Jesus Christ, and point us to what He does for us.

We listen to God's word in sermons and Bible Class because it points us Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection.

We receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ in the Lord's Supper, because here Jesus unites us with Himself and with one another through His bodily death and resurrection.

We do good for our neighbors because we are motivated by the love God has shown us by giving us His Son, Jesus Christ.

If you're just looking for a nice group of nice, friendly people who get together to enjoy one another's company, then the church isn't for you.

If you're looking for fellow sinners who rely on the grace of God, who encourage one another to look to Jesus Christ, their Savior, and who bear Jesus into the world, then come and see Jesus here.

Jesus Christ is the author and perfecter of our faith. He starts us off and brings everything to perfect fulfillment. It's all Him.

As we continue to journey through Lent, to Jerusalem, to the upper room, to Gethsemane, to Golgotha, to the empty tomb, to the upper room and beyond, let us fix our eyes on Jesus.

In Jesus' Name,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

March was our annual "Soup Supper". As always it was "Super". The brief meeting was spent planning the April 9th Rummage and Bake Sale. Donations of your gently used clothing, housewares and treasures will be appreciated. Items may be placed in the church basement starting now and up until April 8th.

On April 8th we will be setting up between 9:00am – 11:00am and then again at 6:00pm. We appreciate any help we can get. Also, this is a good time to bring your bakery items.

Keep in mind this fund raiser benefits Faith Church and out mission work.

We all send out prayers and get well wishes to our secretary Gail Henson. We wish her a speedy recovery.

To our Faith Family, may you rejoice in the Risen Savior. Have a Blessed Easter.

Chairman Kathleen Nowak

Easter Eggstravaganza

Once again this year we will host an anticipatory celebration of Easter for the young people in our families and in the community. Our "Easter Eggstravaganza" will be held on Saturday, April 23 at 2:00pm. We will have crafts and treats for the children, but most importantly, we will proclaim the message of Jesus' death and resurrection for us. We will be looking for volunteers from the congregation to serve in many capacities, so please take advantage of this opportunity, and invite any young people you know to join us.

Nursing Home Services

Pastor Birkholz will be leading services on the following dates. Please consider coming to assist and to visit with the residents.

April 19: Emeritus of Burr Ridge, 10:30am

April 26: Emeritus of Burr Ridge, 10:30am

Tinley Court, 3:30pm

Coming Events

VBS June 20th – June 24th

Church Picnic June 26th

Midweek Services

Our Lenten Midweek services continue on Wednesday evenings through April 13. Each week we will begin at 7:00pm with the service of Compline in the sanctuary, followed by refreshments in the church basement. We will conclude with a presentation on Jesus Christ in artwork. The following groups are kindly requested to provide refreshments:

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)

Holy Week

This year Holy Week begins on April 17th with Palm Sunday. Our Palm Sunday service will include a procession with Palms and special music from the choir.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week we will have a brief spoken prayer service at noon. We will listen to the Passion accounts from the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and pray for the needs of our congregation and our community. Following each service, there will be an opportunity for private confession and absolution. Confession and absolution will also be available on Wednesday evening from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

Our Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00pm on April 21st. The service will begin with corporate confession and absolution. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper. At the conclusion of the service the altar will be stripped.

Good Friday services will be held at 3:00pm and 7:00pm on April 22nd. These services will include readings, hymns, and prayers to guide our meditation on the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.

On Easter Sunday, April 24th, we will celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. Our Sunrise service begins at 7:00am, and our Easter celebration service will be at 10:00am. Between the services you are invited to share in our Easter breakfast.

Schedule of April / May 2011 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>April Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
6	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
10	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
13	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17		<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>
	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
18	12:00 AM	Prayer Service / Private Confession & Absolution
19	12:00 AM	Prayer Service / Private Confession & Absolution
20	12:00 AM	Prayer Service / Private Confession & Absolution
	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Private Confession & Absolution
21		<u>MAUNDY THURSDAY</u>
	7:00 PM	Worship / Communion
22		<u>GOOD FRIDAY</u>
	3:00 PM	Worship
	7:00 PM	Worship
24		<u>EASTER SUNDAY</u>
	7:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	8:30 AM	Easter Breakfast
	10:00 AM	Worship / Communion

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>May Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Cla00ss
15	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
21	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
22	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
29	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Tre Ore Service

“Tre Ore” is Latin for “Three Hours.” This special service is observed on Good Friday from noon until 3:00pm, the three hours that Jesus was on the cross. This year Grace Lutheran Church in Willow Springs will host a Tre Ore service for our area. You can come for all three hours, or any portion you are able.

12:00pm - 1:00pm Service of the Word

1:00pm - 2:00pm Service of the Sacrament

2:00pm - 3:00pm Service of Vespers

Ascension Service

Our next joint circuit service will be a celebration of the Ascension of Our Lord on Thursday, June 2nd at Grace, Willow Springs.

6:00pm Potluck Dinner

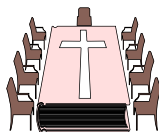
(please bring a dish to share)

6:30pm Mass Choir rehearsal

7:00pm Festival Divine Service

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



Hymns of the Month

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.

“Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free” (LSB # 473)

This hymn of praise is overflowing with alleluias. It encourages us to live out the joy of the resurrection in lives of love and service.

April / May Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Apr. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Apr. 3 Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth
Nick Trojanowski
Mark Trojanowski

Apr. 10 Alden Ketchum
Ed Neaves
A.J. Bray
Ray Bennett

Apr. 17 Frank Oslakovic
Bill Weems
Howard Johnson
Richard Clark

Apr. 24 **7:00 AM**
Bill Weems
Alden Ketchum
Mary Slepiski
Howard Johnson
10:00 AM
Gene Osmanski
Ed Neaves
Frank Oslakovic
Glen Werth

Lenten Worship 7:00 PM Wednesday

Apr. 6 Richard Clark
Howard Johnson
Alden Ketchum

Apr. 13 Gene Osmanski
Frank Oslakovic
Glen Werth

Apr. 21 Ed Neaves
Bill Weems
Richard Clark
Howard Johnson

Apr. 22 **3:00 PM**
Glen Werth
Gene Osmanski
Alden Ketchum
7:00 PM
Frank Oslakovic
Ed Neaves
Richard Clark

May Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

May 1 Richard Clark
Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett
A.J. Bray

May 8 Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth
Mary Slepiski
Howard Johnson

May 15 Alden Ketchum
Frank Oslakovic
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

May 22 Bill Weems
Ed Neaves
Richard Clark
Ray Bennett

May 29 Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth
Howard Johnson
Mark Trojanowski

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Apr. 3 Mark Trojanowski

Apr. 10 Ray Bennett

Apr. 17 Jim Kramer

Apr. 24 **7:00 AM**
Bill Weems
10:00 AM
Gene Osmanski

May 1 Ed Neaves

May 8 Nick Trojanowski

May 15 Debbie Hochgesang

May 22 Mark Trojanowski

May 29 Ray Bennett

