

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

June / July 2011

---



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Since I've been your pastor, we've spent lots of time talking about the future of our congregation, and if we can continue to support the work that God does through us in this place.

I'd like to start to shift the conversation a little bit to consider what exactly we should be doing as the church. How do we best use the resources God has given us? He's kept us around thus far, so what has He put us here to do?

Our new LCMS President, Pastor Matthew Harrison, has proposed a three-fold emphasis for our Synod, which reminds us of what we are to do as the church. His three areas are: Witness, Mercy, and Life Together. I've found this to be a helpful way to think about the church, and we've begun using this as the pattern for our Elders' meetings for several months.

Witness is the first and most obvious task of the church. We proclaim what we have seen and heard about Jesus both to one another within our congregation, and to those we meet in everyday life. Our witness includes our Sunday morning services and Bible Classes, as well as casual conversations with our neighbors.

Mercy refers to the acts of love and kindness we show to those in need. This could include people in our own congregation and community, or across the world. The love we have in Christ always manifests itself in real, concrete ways to help and assist the suffering.

Life Together includes the fellowship and support that we enjoy within the body of Christ. This is embodied in our celebration of the Lord's Supper together each week, but also includes the way that we treat and interact with one another as members of one family.

In the weeks and months ahead, we will be looking at what we've been doing in each of these areas within our church, and looking at opportunities to grow and do more.

These aren't things that we do on our own, but Christ motivates and empowers us by His Spirit to be involved in all these things. This is the reason why we're still here - to bear witness to the words and deeds of our Savior, to show mercy and compassion, as Jesus did, to those in need, and to live together in peace and harmony.

Please do some reflecting and praying about our congregation in each of these areas. If you have any thoughts on what we can do more or better, please let me know, or have a chat with one of our Elders.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Birkholz

# In and Around Faith Church

---

## Ladies Aid

The ladies will be meeting on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall for their last meeting until September. Please note the date change.

We will have a pizza party and blind auction. A wrapped new item is requested. Pastor will be the auctioneer. All ladies of the church are welcome. Contact Anna O'Neil if you need further information.

As we take our usual summer break, we thank all who have helped to keep our ladies' functions active as we do our mission work.

Kathleen Nowak

---

## Picnic

Our annual church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Once again we will meet at Wolfe Wildlife Refuge, 109<sup>th</sup> and Laramie.

The worship service will begin at 11:00 AM with lunch to follow. Hot dogs and soda will be provided, but please bring a pot luck dish for the common table. There will also be games and lots of fun. If you plan to participate in Bingo, please bring a wrapped item for the Bingo prizes.

---

## Nursing Home Services

Pastor Birkholz will be leading services on the following dates. If you would like to assist with any of these services, or would like to accompany him to visit the homebound and those in nursing homes, you are more than welcome.

Emeritus of Burr Ridge (Betty Baker) - June 8, 29 (10:30a)

Tinley Court (Hertha Fahlberg) - June 8, July 20 (3:30p)

---

## Food Pantry Grocery List

Flour, oil, sugar  
Baked beans, Kidney Beans, Pork and Beans  
Applesauce, peaches, pears  
Jello, jelly, pudding, soup (no tomato)  
Cereal  
Paper towels, toilet paper

***No corn, green beans or peas needed at this time.***

Thank you for your support.

## VBS

**Are you ready for a Wild Adventure???**

**Join us for PandaMania — Where God is wild about you.!**

Vacation Bible School begins June 20<sup>th</sup>. We will meet each day at 9:30 AM. There will be Bible stories, crafts, treats and playtime.

Each day we will learn something new, have fun together and explore God's love.

On Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, we will end our week with our program for our parents.

Come join us and spread the word to your friends. Bring an adult on Monday for registration and let the fun begin.

We can always use help. Please consider signing up to help. We need helpers for crafts, in the kitchen, or teaching. We also need cookies and Kool-Aid. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Thank you for your support.

---

## Ascension Service

Our Lord spent forty days after His resurrection meeting with His disciples and strengthening their faith. After forty days He ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. This year Ascension Day falls on Thursday, June 2. Our Circuit Ascension Service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 212 S Nolton Avenue, Willow Springs. There will be a potluck dinner at 6:00p (please bring a dish to share), a mass choir rehearsal at 6:30p, and a festival service at 7:00p. The preacher for the service will be the Rev. Lance O'Donnell of St. Phillip, Chicago. Please plan to attend this special celebration.

---

## Mom's Night Out

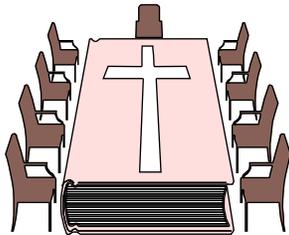
On Friday, June 3, Faith will offer a Mom's night out for all mothers with young children. Moms may bring their children to church (or they may choose to leave them home). At 6:00p they will head out for dinner, and return by 8:00p. Dads and others from the congregation are needed to help. Please sign up on the church bulletin board, or RSVP through the church's Facebook page.

# Schedule of June / July 2011 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>June 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 / Communion
	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 / Communion
	11:00 AM	Worship @ Picnic

## Weekly Meetings

Bible Study	Fri. - 10:30 AM
Family Night	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Sun. - 7:00 PM



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>July Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
10	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
24	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
31	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

## Hymns of the Month

### June- "Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose Thee" (# 573)

While many fellow Christians believe that we need to make a "decision for Jesus," we know that we are simply not able to do anything towards our own salvation. Instead, God has chosen us in Jesus Christ, loving us and giving us new life.

### July- "Not unto Us" (# 558)

This hymn is based on Psalm 115, and reminds us that all of the good in us comes from God alone, and the praise and glory belong to him. He fills us with His grace and love that we do some good.

# June / July Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

## June Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**June 5** Gene Osmanski  
Glen Werth  
Nick Trojanowski  
Mark Trojanowski

**June 12** Alden Ketchum  
Ed Neaves  
A.J. Bray  
Ray Bennett

**June 19** Frank Oslakovic  
Bill Weems  
Howard Johnson  
Richard Clark

**June 26** Bill Weems  
Alden Ketchum  
Mary Slepiski  
Howard Johnson

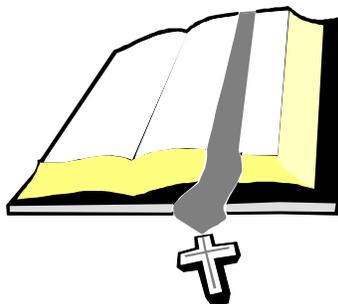
## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

**June 5** Mark Trojanowski

**June 12** Ray Bennett

**June 19** Jim Kramer

**June 26** Bill Weems



## July Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**July 3** Richard Clark  
Ed Neaves  
Ray Bennett  
A.J. Bray

**July 10** Gene Osmanski  
Glen Werth  
Mary Slepiski  
Howard Johnson

**July 17** Alden Ketchum  
Frank Oslakovic  
Mark Trojanowski  
Nick Trojanowski

**July 24** Bill Weems  
Ed Neaves  
Richard Clark  
Ray Bennett

**July 31** Gene Osmanski  
Glen Werth  
Howard Johnson  
Mark Trojanowski

## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

**July 3** Ed Neaves

**July 10** Nick Trojanowski

**July 17** Debbie Hochgesang

**July 24** Gene Osmanski

**July 31** Ray Bennett