

FAITH NEWSLETTER

August / September 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the last newsletter, I introduced the new threefold emphasis for our Synod: **Witness, Mercy and Life Together**. This time we will explore the area of **witness** and what that means for us here at Faith.



When you hear the word “witness”, you might get a little nervous. It probably conjures up images of knocking on doors, preaching on street corners or starting awkward conversations with non-Christians. It’s really much simpler than that.

Think about the role of witnesses in a courtroom. They don’t need to make arguments. All that they do is talk about what they have seen or heard. They are simply recounting their experiences.

This was the role of the apostles after Jesus ascended into heaven. They talked about what Jesus had said and done, after seeing and hearing these things for themselves. The task of witnessing did not end when the apostles died. The next generations of Christians presented the witness of the apostles in their own time and place. The church continues to give this same witness today.

The purpose of witnessing is not just to build a case or an argument for our faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit works through our words to create and strengthen faith. This is a great comfort for you. You don’t have to worry about crafting sophisticated arguments. Just talk about who Jesus is and what He’s done for you.

How do we witness here at Faith? It’s impossible to list everything, but here are a few examples:

- **Public worship services:** We don’t hold secret ceremonies, but invite all to come to see and hear Jesus for themselves. Everything we say and do testifies to who Jesus is, and what He is doing in our midst.
- **Educational opportunities:** Sunday and Friday Bible Class, new members’ instruction and confirmation, Evenings with Jesus and Vacation Bible School all witness to Jesus Christ and help our members to understand and talk about Jesus.
- **Support of a pastor and other church workers:** As a pastor, I have many opportunities to talk about Jesus in many different settings- hospitals, nursing homes, and others in our neighborhood. As a congregation, we also support our district and synod in their mission work both here in the Chicago area and around the world.
- **Everyday conversations:** Most opportunities to witness come in unexpected ways as you live your life- within your family, at work, at school or in your neighborhood. As St. Peter writes: “Always [be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.” (1 Peter 3:15)

Be on the lookout for opportunities to witness about Jesus. It’s a great joy that He has entrusted us, His church with this task. If you think of other ways that we can expand our witness here at Faith, please let me know or speak with one of our Elders. Later in September we will have an opportunity to discuss these issues together as a congregation. Please watch for more information in the weeks to come.

God’s Blessings,
Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

Summer, with the beauty of nature, is a time for us to enjoy the warmth and plan ahead for our Fall schedule.

We have been blessed by having Fail Henson in attendance and also by the surprise visit from our former Pastor Bocklage and his wife Anna/

Special August birthday blessings to Grace Scott and Hertha Fahlberg. May God bless you. We miss you both.

Please Note Changes.

Our September meeting will be September 8th at our new time 6:30 PM.

We will be planning our Christmas Bazaar.

Kathleen Nowak

VBS

Everyone had a wonderful time at VBS this year. We had 19 children in attendance. The children learned about Jesus, did crafts and sang wonderful frolicking songs.

Our success was due to the wonderful, energetic helpers of Faith. Thank you Pastor Birkholz, Colleen Weems, Christine Radosevich, Anna O'Neal, Shirley Burkett, Arlene Banks, Christine and Elise Trojanowski, Marge Ketchum, Brittney and Jake and Frannie Rheinwald, Sandy Kampenga, Lynne Trojanowski and all of you who supported us with donations.

Celeste Oslakovic

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 or those in nursing homes, you are more than welcome.

Emeritus of Burr Ridge (Betty Baker) – August 10 & 31 (10:30AM)

Tinley Park (Hertha Fahlberg) – August 31 (3:30PM)

Congregational Meeting

Our congregational voters' meetings are returning to Friday evenings in order to avoid conflicting with Sunday morning Bible Class. Please join us Friday, September 23 at 7:00PM as we hear reports from the boards of our congregation, hear about upcoming events and opportunities to learn and serve, and consider any business of the congregation. The budget for 2012 will also be presented. If you have any items to add to the agenda, please contact Frank Oslakovic.

Evening with Jesus

Once again we will be having our Evening with Jesus for children 3 years to 12 years old. We will meet in the Parish Hall at 6:00 PM on the third Thursday of the month. Please make a note that September 22nd will be our first session. Spread the word to all of your friends.

New Pastor

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn is welcoming the Rev. Matt Zickler as their new assistant pastor. Pastor Zickler is a recent graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, and was placed at St. Paul in May. He will be installed at a special 10:00AM service on August 7, with a reception to follow.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame

We have been invited to join members of other area Lutheran churches in attending the Windy City Thunderbolts game on Friday, September 2. The cost is \$19 and includes dinner. Please sign up at church by Sunday, August 14.



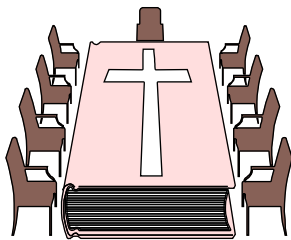
Schedule of Aug. / Sept. 2011 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Aug. Event</u>
6	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
7	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
14	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
20	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
21	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
28	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sept. Event</u>
3	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
4	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
11	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
17	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
18	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
25	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

Bible Study	Fri. - 10:30 AM
Evening w/Jesus 3 rd	Thurs. 6:00 PM
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

August – “We Walk By Faith” (# 720)

This hymn explores our struggles to trust in Jesus, as we can't see or hear Him in the same way that the first disciples did. But even though we can't touch His hands and side (as Thomas did) or walk with Him on the roads of Galilee, He is with us in Word and Sacrament here on earth, and we will see Him face to face in heaven.

September – “Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart” (# 708)

This chorale is a classic German Lutheran hymn of faith and trust in God throughout life. It acknowledges God as our creator, and prays that He would guide and protect us in our dealings with the world around us. My favorite part of this hymn is the final verse, which is sung at the commemoration of the dying. It's a wonderful expression of hope of resurrection and eternal praise of God in heaven.

Aug. / Sept. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Aug. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Aug. 7 Alden Ketchum
Frank Oslakovic
Richard Clark
Nick Trojanowski

Aug. 14 Ed Neaves
Gene Osmanski
A.J. Bray
Ray Bennett

Aug. 21 Glen Werth
Bill Weems
Howard Johnson
Richard Clark

Aug. 28 Alden Ketchum
Frank Oslakovic
Mary Slepiski
Howard Johnson

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Aug. 7 Mark Trojanowski

Aug. 14 Ray Bennett

Aug. 21 Bill Weems

Aug. 28 Jim Kramer

2011 Vacation Bible School



Sept. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Sept. 4 Richard Clark
Ed Neaves
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

Sept. 11 Gene Osmanski
Bill Weems
Mary Slepiski
Howard Johnson

Sept. 18 Alden Ketchum
Frank Oslakovic
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

Sept. 25 Ed Neaves
Richard Clark
Glen Werth
Ray Bennett

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Sept. 4 Ed Neaves

Sept. 11 Gene Osmanski

Sept. 18 Nick Trojanowski

Sept. 25 Debbie Hochgesang

2011 Vacation Bible School

