

FAITH NEWSLETTER

October / November 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,



In the last newsletter we looked at “witness,” both the witness that Jesus has given us in His church, and the witness that we give to one another to what He has done for us.

This month we move on to mercy, as we put our words into action.

Words and actions go together. God did not just speak about His love for you, but He enacted it as He sent Jesus Christ to die for you.

Our confession of faith and our good works go together. We know, of course, that good works don’t save us, but they are the natural expression of our faith. Just as faith is a gift, good works are a gift of God that He creates in your life. God has made you to be a good tree, and so you will bear good fruit.

So what good works should you we be doing? The word “mercy” is used throughout scripture to describe these actions.

Mercy gives to the beggars and feeds the hungry, heals the hurting and raises the dead. Mercy is what Jesus first shows to you. You don’t deserve His love and salvation, but He gives them to you out of His mercy. And then once you have been shown mercy, you show mercy to others. Mercy refers to helping people in need, especially those who don’t deserve it and are unable to repay.

We show mercy to people in need, not because we expect to receive anything in return, not because we want them to become members of the congregation and help pay the bills, but because we have been called to love them.

The primary focus of our acts of mercy at Faith has been our Food Pantry. For many years we have assisted those in our neighborhoods who are experiencing crises and struggle to provide for their families. We also take collections for those affected by natural disasters and warfare throughout the world. Most recently we collected school supplies for students in Joplin, Missouri.

Many of our members in their everyday lives show mercy to those they meet each day. Keep your eyes open and watch for ways that the Lord will use you to show mercy to those in need around you.

God’s Blessings,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

Yes, our Fall season is upon us and as usual a busy one for our Ladies. We are in the midst of our plans for our Annual Christmas Bazaar.

The bazaar starts Tuesday, Nov. 8th at 10:00 A.M. The chili lunch will be from 11:00 A.M. to 12:00. The Pork Roast dinner is times are 5:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. Ticket prices have not yet been determined. Further information will be in the church bulletin or call Anna O'Neil.

We will accept bakery items, white elephant items and any hand crafted items. Sunday the 6th we will be moving tables after Bible Class and on Monday we will be setting up for Tuesday. We appreciate any help we can get.

Thank you for your support.

Kathleen Nowak

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) – Oct. 12 (10:30AM)

Tinley Park (Hertha Fahlberg) – Oct. 12 (3:30PM)

Bears, Brats, and Bonfire

Come and enjoy the fall weather and the fellowship of your friends at Faith at the Wolfe Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, October 16.

4:00p – Bears Tailgating snacks and games

5:00p – Brats and Hot Dogs

6:00p – Bonfire

7:30p – Head home to watch the Bears play the Vikings

Cost: \$5 for adults; \$3 for kids ages 3-12

Please bring your favorite tailgating snack to share. Brats, hot dogs, drinks and condiments will be provided.

Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry has served 30 families in the last two months.

We rely on donations of food to keep us going.

We are currently in need of the following items:

Baking needs, beans, canned fruit, cereal, cornbread mix, crackers, instant mashed potatoes, jello, jelly, macaroni and cheese, paper towels, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, rice, soup (no tomato), and vegetables (no corn or green beans).

Witness, Mercy, Life Together

Our special Bible Class continues for the first three weeks of October. Even if you missed our first session, we invite you to join us for the rest of the classes. These are vitally important as we consider how best to move forward in faith as a congregation.

Evening with Jesus

Please make a note that October 20th and November 18th will be our next sessions. Spread the word to all of your friends.

We will meet in the Parish Hall at 6:00 PM on the third Thursday of the month.

Advent

Believe it or not, it's already time to start thinking about Advent. Advent and Christmas are a time for singing. We remember the great hymns of faith sung by Mary (the Magnificat), Zachariah (the Benedictus), and Simeon (the Nunc Dimittis) as well as the hymn of the Angels (Gloria in Excelsis) that we echo each Sunday.

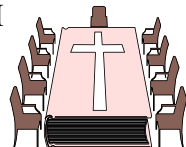
This year's Advent midweek services will start on Wednesday, November 30. Each week we will focus on a different Advent or Christmas hymn, and I'm looking for suggestions. In a few weeks there will be a box in the narthex to submit your favorite Advent or Christmas hymn. It must be from the LSB hymnal (# 331-393). The most popular hymns will be the focus for our midweek services

Schedule of Oct. / Nov. 2011 Events

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

Weekly Meetings

Bible Study	Fri. - 10:30 AM
Evening w/Jesus 3rd	Thurs. 6:00 PM
Family Night	1st 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	1st Sun. - 7:00 PM



Circuit Reformation

This year's joint Reformation Service will be held on Monday, October 31 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Oak Lawn. Please join us as we give thanks to the Lord for His gift of the gospel, faithfully proclaimed through Martin Luther and the other Reformers.

6:00p – Potluck Dinner
 6:30p – Mass Choir Rehearsal
 7:00p – Festival Divine Service

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Nov. 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
23	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve
		Worship / Communion
27	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
30	7:00 PM	Advent Worship

Hymns of the Month

October: Built on the Rock, # 645

This hymn, written by Danish composer Nikolai Gruntvig is a stirring reminder of the true character of the church. Jesus promises that He has built the church on Himself, the “Rock” of our salvation, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. Even when church buildings crumble and fall, the Church will endure through God’s gifts of Baptism, Word and Supper.

November: Christ Is Surely Coming, # 509

As the church year winds to a close, we remember that Jesus Christ will return one day. This hymn by English composer Christopher Idle draws on imagery from Revelation to remind us Christ’s return. The first verse focuses on different names of Jesus: Alpha and Omega, Root and Stem of David, Brilliant Morning Star, Judge and Savior. In the second verse Idle presents a picture of the holy city Jerusalem. The hymn concludes in praise of our Triune God with our prayer for Jesus to come.

Oct. / Nov. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Oct.. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Oct. 2	Alden Ketchum Frank Oslakovic Richard Clark Nick Trojanowski
Oct. 9	Ed Neaves Richard Clark A.J. Bray Ray Bennett
Oct. 16	Glen Werth Bill Weems Howard Johnson Mark Trojanowski
Oct. 23	Alden Ketchum Frank Oslakovic Mary Slepski Howard Johnson
Oct. 30	Ed Neaves Glen Werth Richard Clark Ray Bennett

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Oct. 2	Mark Trojanowski
Oct. 9	Ray Bennett
Oct. 16	Bill Weems
Oct. 23	Jim Kramer
Oct. 30	Debbie Hochgesang

All Saints Day

This year we will celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 6 with a special Divine Service at 9:00AM and a brief reception following the service. We will give thanks to the Lord for the saints who have joined the heavenly chorus in the previous year: **Nancy Johnson, Evelyn Luer, Robert Rafac, and Steve Johnson**; and we will also thank the Lord for the new saints who have been added through Holy Baptism: **Briella Konrath, Brooklyn Konrath, Caiden Dodson, and Elizabeth Birkholz.**

Nov. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Nov. 6	Richard Clark Ed Neaves Mark Trojanowski Nick Trojanowski
Nov. 13	Gene Osmanski Bill Weems Mary Slepski Howard Johnson
Nov. 20	Alden Ketchum Frank Oslakovic Mark Trojanowski Nick Trojanowski
Nov. 27	Ed Neaves Gene Osmanski Glen Werth Ray Bennett

Nov. Worship 7:00 PM Wednesday

Nov. 23	Frank Oslakovic Glen Werth Howard Johnson Mary Slepski
Nov.30	Frank Oslakovic Richard Clark

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Nov. 6	Ed Neaves
Nov. 13	Gene Osmanski
Nov. 20	Nick Trojanowski
Nov. 27	Debbie Hochgesang

Special Project

The Trustees and other volunteers will begin making improvements in the parsonage. Materials will be purchased with donations from pastor and special project envelopes to be provided.

This is NOT a budgeted project. No weekly donations for current expenses will be used. Work will progress as special project donations are received.

Additional information and progress reports will be provided.