

FAITH NEWSLETTER

Feb. / Mar. 2012



Dear Friends in Christ,

It seems as though winter is finally here. After a balmy December, January has turned cold and snowy.

The cold weather slows us down. It's easier to stay in rather than to risk going out. The cold and snow can often lead to sickness and accidents. The cold can be downright dangerous.

After the warm glow of Christmas, it's hard to keep going spiritually as well, once January and the winter hits. We're tempted to become cold-hearted, to turn our backs on those in need, and to turn inwardly towards ourselves. Jesus warns us in Matthew 24:12 that because of the wickedness of the last days, "the love of most will grow cold." This is a danger for us any time of year. It is easy to get discouraged by the wickedness around us, and for our love for others to grow cold.

Thankfully, the love of Jesus never grows cold. There is nothing that can quench the fire of His love. Not even the icy chill of death and the tomb could extinguish it. As cold as the winter may get, we know that spring and the new life of Easter is dawning on the horizon.

These are the times when the world needs the warmth of the gospel most. Our congregation should be a warm and welcoming place where the good news of Jesus Christ brings hope and life.

When you find your love growing cold, come to the Divine Service to warm up in the presence of Jesus Christ. He is like a roaring fire on a cold winter's night that reinvigorates you and revives your love. As you leave, you take the warmth of Christ's love to the freezing and frigid world around you.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

The Ladies had taken a winter vacation from their monthly meetings, but plans for a busy spring are being made.

Our first 2012 Ladies meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 2nd at 6:30 PM. Our membership drive is on and new members are welcome. We ask for a \$3.00 annual donation and we are sure you will enjoy our Social and Christian Activities. Plans for our annual rummage sale will be in the making and more information will be put in the church bulletin.

Kathleen Nowak

Lent

Our theme for Lent this year is **“We Sing the Praise of Him Who Died”**. Last year we fixed our eyes on Jesus, considering the various pictures of Jesus given to us in Holy Scripture, as well as the pictures of Jesus created by artists throughout the ages. This year we employ our tongues in praising Jesus Christ for His suffering and death for us.

Our **Lenten Devotions** will be drawn from the Lenten and Holy Week hymns in the *Lutheran Service Book*. If you are interested in writing a brief meditation for inclusion in this year’s booklet, please sign up at church, or contact Pastor Birkholz.

The **Lenten Midweek services** will focus on these hymns of faith and the scripture from which they are drawn. Following each service there will be a time of refreshment followed by a brief “Behind the Music” segment. Each week we will learn about the lives of the hymn writers and composers and take a deeper look into their music. The schedule for our Lenten Midweek services appears in the next column.

All services are at 7:00 P.M. The groups listed are kindly asked to provide refreshments for those weeks.

Lent (continued)

February 22 – Ash Wednesday

February 29 – Fortunatus (Elders)

This travelling poet and court musician became a priest and a bishop. He lived during the sixth century, and wrote primarily about the cross of Christ.

“Sing My Tongue the Glorious Battle”

“The Royal Banners Forward Go”

March 7 – Bernard of Clairvaux (Ladies Aid)

The son of a knight and crusader, Bernard became a monk and founded a religious community. Martin Luther called him, “the greatest monk that ever lived.”

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

March 14 – Girolamo Savonarola (Trustees and Fellowship)

A preacher in Florence and early reformer, he championed the causes of the poor. When Lorenzo di Medici died, he found himself in control of the city. The power went to his head, and he was eventually executed.

“Jesus Refuge of the Weary”

March 21 – Paul Gerhardt (Altar Guild and Choir)

Paul was a Lutheran pastor and poet during the 1600s. He lived during a time of plague and war, yet wrote hymns full of hope in His God.

“A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth”

“Upon the Cross Extended”

March 28 – Isaac Watts (Youth and Pastor)

As he was growing up in England, most of the music sung in church was arrangements of psalms. Isaac wrote hundreds of hymns to add variety and depth to the worship of his day.

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

“Not All the Blood of Beasts”

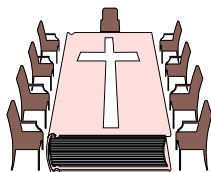
“Alas and Did My Savior Bleed”

Schedule of Feb.2012 / Mar. 2012 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Feb. 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
22	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship / Communion
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
29	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship

Weekly Meetings

Bible Study	Fri. - 11:00 AM
Confirmation Class	Thurs. - 3:30 PM
Evening w/Jesus	3 rd Thurs. - 6:00 PM
Family Night	1 st Fri. - 6:00 PM
AA Groups	Mon. & Fri. - 6:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
Adventure	1 st Sun. - 7:00 PM
ALANON	Tue. - 7:30 PM
Barnabas Christian Assembly	Sun. - 12:00 PM
	Wed. - 6:30 PM



Evening with Jesus

Just a reminder to our children, that we meet on the Third Thursday of each month to learn about Jesus, to make a craft and to sing songs.

Join us for fun at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall.
Bring a friend. The more the merrier.

Anyone interested in helping please contact
Pastor Birkholz or Celeste Oslakovic.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Mar. Event</u>
3	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
4	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
7	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
11	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
14	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
17	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
18	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
21	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
25	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
28	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship

New Members:

Bob Schutzius is a close neighbor to Faith, living just around the corner on Merrimac. Bob first visited our congregation in October, and felt at home here. Since Bob's background was in the Roman Catholic church, he went through adult instruction and was confirmed in January. Bob works nights at a nearby warehouse and shares his home with a coworker.

Grace Tyrell was born in the Netherlands, but grew up in Indiana. She was later married and moved to Chicago. After a stay in the hospital, she currently resides at Emeritus Senior Living in Burr Ridge, where Betty Baker is also a resident. Grace was baptized in December and is currently receiving adult instruction. Her son, Bill, is a member of Gloria Dei, Chicago.

Feb. / Mar. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Feb. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 5 Alden Ketchum
Frank Oslakovic
Richard Clark
Nick Trojanowski

Feb. 12 Ed Neaves
Bob Green
A.J. Bray
Ray Bennett

Feb. 19 Gene Osmanski
Bill Weems
Howard Johnson
Mark Trojanowski

Feb. 26 Glen Werth
Frank Oslakovic
Mary Slepski
Howard Johnson

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 5 Mark Trojanowski

Feb. 12 Ray Bennett

Feb. 19 Bill Weems

Feb. 26 Jim Kramer

Lenten 7:00 PM Wednesday

Feb. 22 Ed Neaves
Glen Werth
Bob Green
Howard Johnson

Feb. 29 Gene Osmanski
Frank Oslakovic

Mar. 7 Alden Ketchum
Frank Oslakovic

Mar. 14 Ed Neaves
Bob Green

Mar. 21 Glen Werth
Richard Clark

Mar. 28 Gene Osmanski
Howard Johnson

Mar. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Mar. 4 Ed Neaves
Alden Ketchum
Bob Green
Ray Bennett

Mar. 11 Richard Clark
Glen Werth
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

Mar. 18 Gene Osmanski
Bill Weems
Mary Slepski
Howard Johnson

Mar. 25 Frank Oslakovic
Alden Ketchum
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Mar. 4 Ed Neaves

Mar. 11 Gene Osmanski

Mar. 18 Nick Trojanowski

Mar. 25 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. Asbestos pipe insulation will also be removed.

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