

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

June / July 2012

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Last Saturday we had a special program on the Christian Funeral. We began by exploring some of the myths associated with death and funerals. Have you heard any of these?

**Myth # 1: Death is Natural**

Death is unnatural. It was not part of God's original creation or His plan for the world. Death comes as a result of sin. If we die of sickness, accident or violence, the root cause is always sin. When we are raised to life on the last day, we will be a part of a world without death.

**Myth #2: Immediately after death, a Christian will be judged**

I'm sure you've heard the jokes about St. Peter sitting before the pearly gates, giving everyone one final test to see if they can enter heaven. You don't have to worry about this. You have been connected with Jesus Christ through Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Nothing, not even death can separate you from Him. There will be a judgment on the last day, but this will simply be making clear to all the world what Jesus has done in your life.

**Myth #3: When you die, you become an angel.**

Angels are a separate creation of God, who serve as His messengers. Although you may be doing similar things as angels in heaven, you will remain a human being (sorry, no wings).

**Myth #4: When you die, you are through with your body.**

Every Sunday we confess the resurrection of the body, and this is what Scripture teaches. Just as Jesus was raised with a physical body, that Thomas and the disciples could touch, and that could eat fish and have breakfast on the beach in Galilee, so you will get your body back on the last day, transformed and renewed to be like Jesus' resurrected body.

**Myth #5: Funerals are for the living and not for the dead.**

Funerals are certainly for the living. They give us an opportunity to be comforted by God's words, to sing songs of hope in the face of death, and to praise God for His goodness to us. But they are also for the dead. Your body is a gift of God, and in the funeral and committal rites we show proper care for your body, laying it to rest in peace and hope.

**Myth #6: Funerals should not be sad. Funerals should be a celebration of life.**

When Jesus went to His friend Lazarus' funeral he wept. It is appropriate to be sad at a funeral, because we will miss our loved ones. If we ignore our emotions and try to cover them up with a smile, there's a greater chance that our sadness will linger. Death is an evil, wicked thing, and we should be sad and angry and upset by the way that it tears apart our lives. Yet we know that one day death will be destroyed forever, and all sorrow and weeping will be gone.

If you were not able to come for the seminar, copies of the Funeral Planning Worksheets are available at church. I would be happy to send you a copy by mail or e-mail if you'd like. Planning some of the details of your funeral service is a wonderful witness to your friends and family of your faith in our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

God's Blessings,  
**Pastor Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Ladies Aid

Thanks to all who made a success of our Rummage sale. With the help of the workers, those who donated bakery, crafts, and rummage, we are again able to assist in various mission and Faith church projects.

The ladies will not have summer meetings. Our Sept. 6th meeting at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall will be focusing on the Christmas Bazaar.

Enjoy the summer and the beauty of nature, giving thanks to God for life.

Kathleen Nowak

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## Geranium Sunday

This year geraniums will adorn our altar on June 17th, Father's Day. The cost is \$4.00 per plant. A sign - up sheet is on the bulletin board. After the service you may take your flowers home or you may leave them and they will be planted around the church property.

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## Going on Vacation?

If you are going away this summer, be sure to find a local congregation to visit and receive the Lord's gifts. If you need help finding a place to worship, please contact the church office and we'll be happy to assist you.

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## Sabbatical

The next phase of Pastor Birkholz' sabbatical will be from July 30 to August 26. Pastor Dan Gensch has agreed to provide pastoral care during this time period.

## Take Me Out to the Ballgame

The congregations of Circuit 19 and 20 are joining in an evening of minor league baseball.

On Friday, July 27 the Windy City Thunderbolts will play the Traverse City Beach Bums. Picnic dinner is at 6:00p and the game starts at 7:05p. Cost is \$19 per person, and that includes dinner and the game.

Please sign up at church or contact the church office by July 8.

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## Pastor Vacation

The Birkholz family will be on vacation from June 29 – July 14. If you have any emergencies please contact Pastor Dan Gensch at (708) 430-0633, or one of the elders.

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## Special Project

The parsonage basement renovation is moving along. The drywall and painting is complete, and the bathroom is nearly finished as well. Major work yet to be done includes installing a few doors and windows, completion of the kitchen area, and the flooring.

Thank you to everyone who has donated to this project and to Charlie Henson, Howard Johnson and Mike Kampenga for all their hard work.

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## New Members

Roger and Lisa Pruiim have moved back to the area after living for a time in Portage, Indiana. Roger and Lisa were confirmed at Faith and they were married here as well. Both Roger and Lisa work at Home Depot. It is truly a blessing to have them back at Faith.

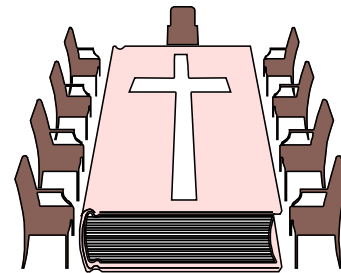
# Schedule of June 2012 / July 2012 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>June 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
	11:00 AM	Picnic Worship Service
	12:00 AM	Picnic starts
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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>July 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 Class
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

## Weekly Meetings

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



# June / July Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

## June Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**June 3** Ed Neaves  
Bob Green  
Mary Slepски  
Howard Johnson

**June 10** Richard Clark  
Alden Ketchum  
Nick Trojanowski  
Mark Trojanowski

**June 17** Frank Oslakovic  
Gene Osmanski  
A.J. Bray  
Ray Bennett

**June 24** Glen Werth  
Bill Weems  
Richard Clark  
Howard Johnson

## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

**June 3** Ed Neaves

**June 10** Mark Trojanowski

**June 17** Gene Osmanski

**June 24** Debbie Hockgesang

**July 1** Ray Bennett

**July 8** Nick Trojanowski

**July 15** Gene Osmanski

**July 22** Bill Weems

**July 29** Ed Neaves

## July Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**July 1** Ed Neaves  
Bob Green  
Mary Slepски  
Ray Bennett

**July 8** Alden Ketchum  
Richard Clark  
Mark Trojanowski  
Nick Trojanowski

**July 15** Gene Osmanski  
Frank Oslakovic  
Howard Johnson  
Glen Werth

**July 22** Bill Weems  
Richard Clark  
Ray Bennett  
A.J. Bray

**July 29** Ed Neaves  
Bob Green  
Mary Slepски  
Richard Clark

