

FAITH NEWSLETTER

February / March 2013



Dear Friends in Christ,

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. . . . Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27)

These verses from Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth were part of our Epistle reading last Sunday. They are a helpful reminder of who we are as a church. I would encourage you to read the whole chapter of 1 Corinthians 12 and see how Paul uses this picture of the church as the body of Christ.

There are several lessons to learn from these verses.

First, you are an important part of the church, just like all parts of the body are important. You might think, “I’m too old,” or “I don’t have a strong faith,” or “I feel like an outsider.” Through Holy Baptism Jesus has made you a part of His body. In the Lord’s Supper, Jesus puts His own body into you. Jesus does all of these things for you because He loves you. You are important because of what Jesus has done for you. No member of our church should feel unimportant.

Second, if you are not here, the whole body suffers. When you disconnect yourself from the body of Christ, it’s like cutting off an arm or a leg. It’s painful, and it’s hard for the church to continue to function.

Third, if you cut yourself off from the body of Christ, you will die. An arm or a leg can’t survive on its own once it’s been cut off from the body. It quickly becomes lifeless and decays. So it is when you are cut off from the body of Christ, when you stop receiving the Lord’s Supper, when you no longer hear His word spoken to you. I’m constantly surprised by the number of people who think they can be a Christian without being connected to Christ and His body, the church. It’s like an arm or a leg thinking they can survive without receiving nourishment from the body.

Lent is a time of self-examination. It’s like going in to the doctor’s office for a check-up. It’s not always pleasant, and we don’t always like to hear what the doctor has to say, but we need to do it regularly to stay healthy and growing.

As a congregation, I would encourage us this Lent to give ourselves a check-up, to let God examine us through His Word. Are all the members of our body connected and working together? Is there illness or injury that needs the healing balm of the Gospel?

The good news is that we are not alone. We are connected to Jesus Christ, and He is our head. Death was not the end for Him, and so we know that through Him we have everlasting life.

In Christ, our Head,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

The first month of the New Year is behind us and we are now preparing for our Lenten observance. February is our Ladies Aid Membership Drive. We welcome all ladies of Faith and ask for a donation of \$3.00 for our yearly dues.

February 7th at 6:30 PM is our meeting in the Parish Hall. Details for our activities and tentative plans for our annual Rummage Sale will be discussed. For an evening of Christian Fellowship please plan on joining us.

Kathleen Nowak

Support the Food Pantry During Lent

Jesus encourages us to fast (Matt 5:16-18), and many Christians use Lent as a special time of self-denial. True Christian fasting is not so much about giving up certain foods for Lent, such as meat, sweets, or alcohol. Instead, traditional fasting involved eating fewer meals and then donating those meals to the poor.

In past years we have had a time for refreshments following our Midweek Lenten services. This year I am encouraging us to forego these refreshments and instead focus on feeding those in need. Each week you are invited to bring a donation for the food pantry. If you can't make it on a Wednesday evening, you can always bring your donation on the following Sunday.

Here are the recommended donations for each week:

Ash Wednesday (Feb 13) – Cereal
Midweek 2 (Feb 20) – Jelly
Midweek 3 (Feb 27) – Peanut Butter
Midweek 4 (Mar 6) – Tuna
Midweek 5 (Mar 13) – Pasta Sauce
Midweek 6 (Mar 20) – Canned Fruit

New Holy Week Schedule

We've made some changes this year so please plan accordingly. Instead of two services on Easter morning, we will have one service at 9:00a preceded by breakfast at 8:00a. We will also celebrate the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening at 7:00p.

Palm Sunday (March 24) – 9:00a

Maundy Thursday (March 28) – 7:00p

Good Friday – Chief Service (March 29) 3:00p

Good Friday – Tenebrae Vespers (March 29) 7:00p

Easter Vigil (March 30) – 7:00p

Easter Sunday (March 31) – 9:00a

Lenten Midweek Services

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 13. All of our midweek services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00p. At our Ash Wednesday service the imposition of ashes will be offered, and we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together. For our midweek services from February 20 through March 20, we will pray the service of Compline.

Our theme for Lent this year will be "Christ in the Old Testament." We will see how all the stories of the Old Testament point us to Jesus Christ and what he does for us. The readings we will use are the Old Testament readings from the Easter Vigil.

Ash Wednesday (Feb 13) – Creation

Midweek 2 (Feb 20) – Noah and the Flood

Midweek 3 (Feb 27) – Abraham and Isaac

Midweek 4 (Mar 6) – The Exodus

Midweek 5 (Mar 13) – Dry Bones

Midweek 6 (Mar 20) – Three Men in the Fiery Furnace

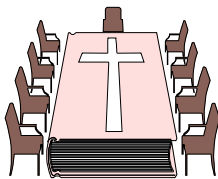
Following the services from February 20 through March 20 there will be brief studies where we explore the various aspects of the Easter Vigil service.

Schedule of Feb. / Mar. 2013 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Feb. Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
8	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (women only)
10	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
13	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship / Communion
15	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (men only)
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
20	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
22	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (all)
24	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
27	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
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



Dissertation Update

Pastor Birkholz's dissertation has been judged to be "defensible" by his dissertation mentor, and will now go to the full committee. His oral hearing has been scheduled for Monday, March 25 at 12:30p. Please continue to keep him and his family in your prayers as this project moves toward completion.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Mar. Event</u>
1	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (women only)
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
6	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
8	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (men only)
10	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
13	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
15	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (all)
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
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20	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
22	7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal (all)
24	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
28	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Worship / Communion
29	3:00 PM	Good Friday Worship
	7:00 PM	Good Friday Worship
30	7:00 PM	Easter Saturday Worship / Communion
31	9:00 AM	Easter Sunday Worship / Communion

Easter Eggstravaganza

Once again this year we will be inviting the kids from our congregation and from our community to join us in celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus. We will be looking for help in the form of both donations and volunteers to assist with the event. The Eggstravaganza will be on Saturday, March 30 at 2:00p

Feb. / Mar. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

February Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 3 Alden Ketchum
Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth
Howard Johnson

Feb. 10 Frank Oslakovic
Richard Clark
Nick Trojanowski
Mark Trojanowski

Feb. 17 Ed Neaves
Bob Green
A.J. Bray
Ray Bennett

Feb. 24 Alden Ketchum
Glen Werth
Richard Clark
Howard Johnson

Lenten Worship 7:00 PM Wednesday

Feb. 13 Ed Neaves
Richard Clark
Howard Johnson
Glen Werth

Feb. 20 Frank Oslakovic
Gene Osmanski

Feb. 27 Alden Ketchum
Bob Green

Mar. 6 Glen Werth
Ed Neaves

Mar. 13 Richard Clark
Howard Johnson

Mar. 20 Frank Oslakovic
Gene Osmanski

Mar. 28 **Maundy Thursday**
Richard Clark
Ed Neaves
Howard Johnson
Gene Osmanski

Mar. 29 **Good Friday 3:00 PM**
Alden Ketchum
Bob Green

Good Friday 7:00 PM
Frank Oslakovic
Glen Werth

March Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Mar. 3 Frank Oslakovic
Gene Osmanski
Mary Slepki
Howard Johnson

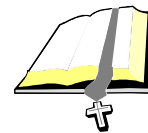
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Mar. 17 Alden Ketchum
Richard Clark
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

Mar. 24 Glen Werth
Gene Osmanski
Mary Slepki
A.J. Bray

Mar. 30 **Easter Saturday 7:00 PM**
Ed Neaves
Richard Clark
Ray Bennett
Howard Johnson

Mar. 31 **Easter Sunday 9:00 AM**
Frank Oslakovic
Alden Ketchum
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski



Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 3 Ed Neaves

Feb. 10 Mark Trojanowski

Feb. 17 Katie Kampenga

Feb. 24 Debbie Hochgesang

Mar. 3 Ray Bennett

Mar. 10 Ed Neaves

Mar. 17 Nick Trojanowski

Mar. 24 Katie Kampenga

Mar. 30 **Easter Saturday 7:00 PM**
Ed Neaves

Mar. 31 Gene Osmanski