

FAITH NEWSLETTER

April / May 2013



Dear Friends in Christ,

For the past year, we have been reading through the book of Acts as a congregation in Sunday morning Bible Class. One reason was because I've been doing a lot of work in Acts for my dissertation and I'm lazy. The other (more important reason) is because there's a lot we can learn from Acts as we look to grow and move forward as a congregation.

Now we have to be careful whenever we apply lessons from Acts (or anywhere in the Bible) to our current situation. There are many similarities between our world today and the world of Acts, but there are important differences, too. We can't just say, "Well, Peter did this, we should, too." And yet there are still many important lessons to learn along the way. Here are just a few:

- 1) The Lord is at work through His people.
This may seem obvious, but it's easy to forget. We like to claim the credit for all the good things that happen around here. In reality, it's all the Lord's doing.
- 2) The Lord draws all sorts of people into His service.
From Peter the fisherman to Paul the Pharisee to Lydia the businesswoman to Cornelius the soldier, all kinds of different people are drawn to follow Jesus and become His witnesses. There's always some good that the Lord can do through you.
- 3) Disputes will happen in the Church.
Everything is not perfect in the church as we see in Acts. Ananias and Sapphira are greedy. Paul and Barnabas quarrel. The issue of circumcision threatens to split the church. Whenever these issues arise, however, they are addressed by carefully reading God's Word and using a bit of common sense.
- 4) Expect resistance and persecution.
Everywhere the apostles went there were those who rejected them and their method. There's no sure-fire method of making disciples. We should not be surprised by those who refuse to listen to us, either.

There's much more that we could say, those above are just a few of the main themes that we discussed during these past few weeks. Starting later in April, we will begin our new study on the book of Proverbs as we look to God for wisdom and guidance in our lives.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

Spring has sprung and our ladies are busy making plans. Our annual bake sale and rummage sale will be Saturday April 13th from 9:00AM to 2:00PM. Donations will be accepted after Easter. We would also appreciate donations of bakery items. These can be dropped off at church on Friday April 12th AM or PM.

Our next meeting will be April 4th with a special fun evening. May 2nd is our meeting with our Ice Cream Social and June 6th will be our Blind Auction and pizza party. All ladies are invited.

Our fund raisers and memorials have enabled us to make donations to the church. We have paid for a new office printer, an office air conditioner, and 16 new bibles that will be used for Bible Classes. Thank you to all who help us make this possible.

Kathleen Nowak

Annual Church Picnic

Mark your calendar for June 9th. Our picnic will be at Wolfe Wildlife Preserve 109th & Laramie. We will start at 11:00 AM with an outdoor worship service, followed by lunch and games.

Hot dogs and soda will be provided. Please bring utensils and plates and a dish for the common table. A wrapped bingo price of \$5.00 will be appreciated for our bingo games.

New Directories

Please pick up your new church address and phone directories in the narthex, if you have not done so already. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office. As always, please keep us informed of any changes or updates that need to be made. Please also note Hertha Fahlberg's new address:

Hertha Fahlberg
Manor Care Palos East
7850 W College Dr
Palos Heights, IL 60463

Circuit Ascension Service

You are invited to join our brothers and sisters from other area Lutheran churches to celebrate the Ascension of our Lord together on Thursday, May 9th. The service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in Willow Springs, and will also serve as the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the dedication of their current sanctuary. Watch for more details in the weeks ahead about the times for the service and opportunities to sing with the mass choir.

Christian Wisdom

Have you ever struggled with making wise choices? In our ever-changing world it is getting harder and harder to know how to live God-pleasing lives. The book of Proverbs contains many wise sayings that can help give us direction in understanding our world and how to relate to others. Most of all, it points to Jesus Christ, the Wisdom of God, who is still at work in the world today. Join us on Sunday mornings after church, once the Acts study wraps up (probably around April 21st).

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Our VBS will be the week of June 10th, starting at 9:30AM and ending at noon. All children ages 3 years to 6th grade are welcome to join us. The children will learn about the mountain top stories from the Bible. Please invite a neighbor, grandchild, niece, or nephew to join us.

To make this a great experience for the children, we have several ways you can help. We need teachers, helpers for crafts, kitchen help and play area supervisors. We will also need a few donations. Look for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Schedule of April / May 2013 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>April 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

Weekly Meetings

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

Scrapbooking/Card Making Crop Fundraiser

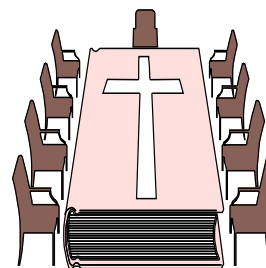
Friday, May 17th 4:00p to 10:00p
Saturday, May 18th 9:00a to 10:00p

Come and join us for a fun filled time making scrapbooks and homemade cards. Bring your friends and family, even if you have **NEVER** scrapbooked or made a homemade card, we will have you up and crafting in NO time! Plan for a great deal of fun and fellowship as we crop till we drop. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon. There will be a limited number of participants due to space restrictions so sign up early! Be sure to share this with all your friends and family.

The cost for this event will be \$30.00 per person which includes the following:

- Lunch and dinner on Saturday
- Snacks (you may wish to bring your own beverages)
- Many scrapbooking and card making give-a-ways

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>May 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
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class



Scrapbooking (continued)

Separately available to event attendees and anyone else that is interested with limited time are the following self-contained classes at \$10.00 each:

- **Card Making:** Friday night 7:00p to 8:00p learn how to make simple yet elegant homemade cards.
- **Scrapbooking:** Saturday 11:00a to 12:00a, learn how to make a double page scrapbook layout.

All proceeds will go to Faith Lutheran Church.

Recommended supplies:

- Scissors
- 12" paper cutter
- Scrapbook paper
- Photos
- Tombow tape runners (double sided tape)

Sponsored by Close to My Heart consultant Terilynn Klement (Amberleigh Birkholz's mother)

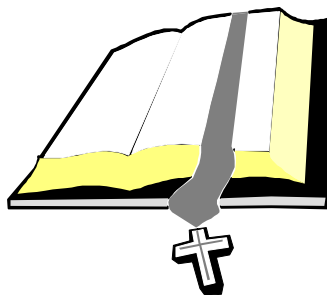
April / May Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

April Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- Apr. 7** Alden Ketchum
Gene Osmanski
Katie Kampenga
Howard Johnson
- Apr. 14** Frank Oslakovic
Richard Clark
Nick Trojanowski
Mark Trojanowski
- Apr. 21** Ed Neaves
Bob Green
A.J. Bray
Ray Bennett
- Apr. 28** Alden Ketchum
Glen Werth
Mary Slepiski
Howard Johnson

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

- Apr. 7** Gene Osmanski
- Apr. 14** Mark Trojanowski
- Apr. 21** Katie Kampenga
- Apr. 28** Debbie Hochgesang



May Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- May 5** Frank Oslakovic
Gene Osmanski
Richard Clark
Katie Kampenga
- May 12** Ed Neaves
Bob Green
A.J. Bray
Ray Bennett
- May 19** Alden Ketchum
Richard Clark
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski
- May 26** Frank Oslakovic
Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth
Katie Kampenga

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

- May 5** Ray Bennett
- May 12** Ed Neaves
- May 19** Nick Trojanowski
- May 26** Katie Kampenga

Pastor Birkholz's Doctoral Studies

On March 25th, I successfully defended my dissertation before a panel of my professors. This is the last major requirement before the completion of my degree. On May 11th I will graduate and receive a PhD in Theological Studies with a concentration in New Testament Theology and Exegesis. Thank you to everyone for your prayers and encouragement throughout this experience.