

FAITH NEWSLETTER

June / July 2013



Dear Friends in Christ,

Several years ago we had a few adults preparing to be baptized and confirmed at Faith. We chose to use the Lenten midweek services to go through the catechism together as a way to do adult instruction for them, and also give the rest of us a refresher on the catechism. I was overwhelmed by how many people not only showed up for the services but also stayed after for more instruction in the catechism.

Since then, I've been thinking about how we can continue to learn and grow in faith together as a congregation from the catechism. For many of us, we read and perhaps memorized the catechism in confirmation class, but we haven't used it much since. Others of you who didn't grow up in the Lutheran church may not have had many opportunities to study the catechism. Martin Luther himself writes about the importance of the catechism in his introduction to the Large Catechism:

"I am also a doctor and a preacher... yet I act as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning—and whenever I have time—I read and say, word for word, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. But I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so."

The catechism takes three things God says: the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer, and three things God does: Holy Baptism, Confession and Forgiveness, and the Lord's Supper, and explains them all in simple, easy to understand ways. This is the basic core of our Faith: God teaches us how to live, what to believe, and how to pray. He makes us His own through Holy Baptism, forgives our sins in Holy Absolution, and feeds and strengthens us in the Lord's Supper.

I thought about different ways we could review the catechism. We could do another midweek series or study it in Bible Class, but these are typically attended by less than half of our active members. The best way to get everyone involved is in the Sunday morning service.

So here's the plan. For the next few summers we will go through the catechism on Sunday mornings as a congregation. Each year we will take a different part. This year we will start with the commandments, and study two each week from June 30-July 28. I know that summers can be busy times, but if you're in town, please plan to be here for these five weeks as we listen to God's ten words for us and our life together. Next summer, God' willing, we'll move to the Creed.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

Our April fund raiser (rummage sale/ bake sale) was a success. We say thank you to all of the volunteer help and to those who baked and donated items to sell. Because of our success, we will be able to continue our work with the mission and projects at Faith.

Thursday, June 6th at 6:30 we will have our Pizza and Blind Auction Night. Please plan on attending. We welcome your company.

Don't forget to bring a wrapped gift of \$5.00. Please contact Ann O'Neal for further information or if you plan to attend. This will be our last meeting until September. Enjoy the beauty of summer.

Kathleen Nowak
Membership Chairman

Annual Church Picnic

June 9th

Come one, come all to our picnic 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.

A good time will be had by all. There is a new play area for kids and the adults have a covered pavilion to enjoy the summer breezes.

Spring Mission Offering

Once again this year our spring mission offering will go to the Southside Pregnancy Center. On June 2, Kathy Bozyk, the Executive Director of the center will be here to talk to us about what they do. We will take a door offering on June 2 and also distribute Baby Bottles that you can fill with change and return to the church sometime in June. Please consider generously supporting this worthy cause.

Fall

For the past several years we have experimented with having a Fall picnic or fellowship event. We have done hayrides and bonfires and had lots of fun together. This year I am challenging us to use this event as a time not only for us to gather as a congregation, but to intentionally invite others to come and hear about Jesus here at Faith. What would this look like? I've got some ideas, but I'd love to hear yours. We're going to be talking about this more at our congregational meeting on June 2. If you're interested in helping to plan an outreach event this Fall, please contact Pastor Birkholz.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks, from assisting with collecting and distributing food to shopping for needed items. If you'd like to help, please fill out one of the surveys on the information table, or contact Bob Green. Also, there are several items that we can especially use this summer. Please pick up our Spring/Summer shopping list on the information table.

Go Tell it on the Mountain

It's not too late to invite a child to our VBS 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.

We value our helpers so there is always room for you. Making this a great experience for the children is our top priority. Please look for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

We are in need of helpers at church after the picnic. We will be moving things up to church and putting up decorations for VBS.

This should not take much time if we have enough helpers.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Celeste Oslakovic

Schedule June / July 2013 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>June 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

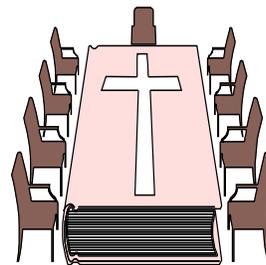
Bible Study Fri. - 11:00 AM
Confirmation Class Tues. - 3:30 PM
Evening w/Jesus 3rd Thurs. - 6:00 PM
AA Groups Mon., Wed. & Fri. - 6:00 PM
Sat. - 8:00 AM
ALANON Tue. - 7:30 PM
Barnabas Christian Assembly Sun. - 12:00 PM

Hymn of the Month

June: "Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me" (# 756)

Paul Gerhardt is one of the greatest Lutheran hymn-writers of all time. His works include "O Sacred Head Now Wounded," "Awake My Heart with Gladness," and "Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow." In his hymns, he is able to connect our rich theology with the emotional side of our faith. This hymn is simple and uses short phrases to express confidence in Christ in the midst of trials and suffering. This hope is grounded in Jesus' death and resurrection and the promise of eternal life in Him.

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



Hymn of the Month

July: "Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain" (# 865)

As you read on the first page, this summer we'll be studying the catechism together again. This hymn by Ludwig Helmbold was written after Luther's death. It is not a song of praise to Luther, but a prayer that we would continue to keep the teachings of Jesus that we received through the catechism. Verses two through four each focus on two different parts of the Catechism. The point of all this, as the last verse concludes, is that we can depart in faith with a strong faith that trusts in Jesus Christ alone.

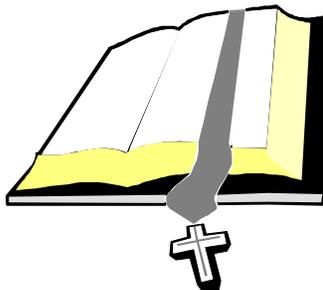
June / July Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

June Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

June 2	Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Ray Bennett Howard Johnson
June 9	Richard Clark Katie Kampenga Nick Trojanowski Mark Trojanowski
June 16	Ed Neaves Bob Green A.J. Bray Ray Bennett
June 23	Alden Ketchum Richard Clark Mary Slepski Howard Johnson
June 30	Frank Oslakovic Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Katie Kampenga

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

June 2	Ray Bennett
June 9	Katie Kampenga
June 16	Mark Trojanowski
June 23	Debbie Hochgesang
June 30	Ed Neaves



July Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

July 7	Gene Osmanski Bob Green A.J. Bray Ray Bennett
July 14	Alden Ketchum Frank Oslakovic Mark Trojanowski Nick Trojanowski
July 21	Gene Osmanski Ed Neaves Howard Johnson Katie Kampenga
July 28	Richard Clark Bob Green Mark Trojanowski Nick Trojanowski

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

July 7	Ray Bennett
July 14	Nick Trojanowski
July 21	Gene Osmanski
July 28	Katie Kampenga

Summer travel

Are you going out of town this summer? This is an excellent opportunity to visit other churches and meet your brothers and sisters in Christ and worship our Lord together with them. If you need help finding an LCMS congregation near where you'll be staying, please contact the church office for assistance.