

FAITH NEWSLETTER

June 2014 / July 2014



Dear Friends in Christ,

I just love the Small Catechism. It's one of the great treasures, not just of Lutheranism, but of all Christian writings over the ages. It very simply and beautifully expresses the Christian faith, focusing on the texts that are most important to us. I never get tired of teaching it, whether to young or old. I keep coming back to it in my sermons, in Bible Study, and even in counseling situations.

Last summer we began our review of the catechism with the 10 commandments. This summer, particularly in the month of July, we continue our review with the Creed. Of the six chief parts, I must confess that this section is my favorite.

The first article of the creed explains who God the Father is. He is not just the creator of the universe, He is the one who made me, giving me my body and soul and all that I need each day. He keeps me from all harm and danger and still cares for me each and every day of my life.

In the second article, we confess everything that Jesus did for us. He is not just the Lord of all. He is my Lord, redeeming me, buying me back through His suffering death, that I may belong to Him and live with Him forever.

The third article focuses on the Holy Spirit, who gives us faith and makes us holy in the one holy church, where He forgives my sins and fills me with His grace. He will also raise me from the dead and give to me eternal life.

If someone were to ask you what you believe, the best answer comes from the creed and Small Catechism. Despite all the differences we have with fellow Christians, we share this creed in common and give thanks for this tremendous gift.

Summer can become a time to drift away and get busy with other activities and responsibilities. Be sure to stay engaged at Faith this summer as we remember who we are through the working of God-Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

Our final meeting before summer break will be June 5th at 6:30 PM. This will be our Pizza Party and Bingo night. All ladies of the church are welcome to join us for a fun evening.

We would like to thank everyone for helping and supporting us either financially or physically this year. We have been blest with a wonderful church family and wonderful members.

Our love and prayers are with the family of Anna O'Neal. She was a dedicated lady contributing her effort and talents to the many endeavors of our group.

Church Picnic

June 8th is the date of our annual church picnic at Wolfe Wildlife Preserve on 110th & Laramie.

There are a few changes this year. There will be no worship service at the picnic so everyone is encouraged to attend the 9:00 AM Pentecost service at Faith and then join us for 12:00 noon lunch at the picnic area. Hot dogs and beverages are provided so you just need to bring a dish for the common table, your own plates and utensils and a wrapped bingo prize if you are intending to play bingo.

There will be several raffles for you to participate in with the profits going to the Special Project. If you are interested in helping with the raffle prizes, you can donate a gift card. For more information please talk to the Oslakovics.

Friends of Faith Newsletter

This new alumni newsletter is being sent out to former members and friends of the congregation as an opportunity to share memories of Faith and to keep them apprised of upcoming events at our church. Copies will also be available at church for current members. If you know anyone who would like to receive this publication, please contact the church office.

Vacation Bible School

VBS this year will be June 16th – 20th from 9:30 AM until noon. Our theme this year is River of Life through the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

Along with learning about baptism we will also be learning about the different areas of the world where the Lutheran Heritage Foundation is doing work. Please invite your friends, kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbors and any other kids you may know.

This year we will also be having an open house to meet and greet the volunteers, introduce the theme and pre-register. This will be on Sunday June 15th at 2 PM. We are still in need of volunteers to help out during this week. We will be having a meeting for the volunteers at the parish hall on Sunday June 1st at 1:30 PM to discuss our program for this year.

75th Anniversary

Plans for our 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee are well underway. We'll be having a special kick-off event next fall and a special service and dinner on April 12, 2015.

We will have other special events over the course of the year, including a celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Ladies Aid on December 7. Plans are also underway for a special memorial book.

If you have any special pictures from church services (baptisms, confirmations, weddings) or events (VBS, picnics, Ladies Aid socials), please drop them in the box in the church narthex. Be sure to label them and we will return them to you.

Electronic Giving

Donations to Faith are now being accepted via PayPal. Just visit our website (www.faithoaklawn.org) and click on the "Donate" button. You can use this for special one-time gifts or for regular monthly gifts. For more information, please contact Rich Clark or Pastor Birkholz.

Schedule of June / July 2014 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>June Event</u>
1	9:00 PM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	9:00 AM	Pentecost - Confirmation
		Worship / Communion
	12:00 AM	Church Picnic
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

Sunday School	First Sunday – 10:15 AM
Bible Study	Fri. - 11:00 AM
Confirmation Class	Thurs. - 3:30 PM
Evening w/Jesus	3rd Thurs. - 6:00 PM
AA Groups	Mon. & Fri. - 6:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
Alanon	Tue. - 7:30 PM

Deaconess Kluetz Farewell

Deaconess Ruth Kluetz has been serving us faithfully for nearly a year. She has been very generous with her time and flexible with her schedule as she has filled in when Carl Lisius has been playing elsewhere. Beginning in July, Carl will be playing for us on a weekly basis once more. In order to thank Deaconess Kluetz for her service to us and to the Lord in the past year, we will have a brief reception following the service on Sunday, June 29. We would also like to present her with a gift to her at this time. If you would like to contribute towards this gift, please use one of the yellow pew envelopes, and designate it for Dcs. Kluetz.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>July Event</u>
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
13	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Congregation Meeting
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
27	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Hymn of the Month

June: “God’s Own Child I Gladly Say It” (# 594)

This hymn will not only serve as our June hymn of the month, but also one of our VBS songs this year. It’s a new translation of an older German hymn, and it beautifully captures the ongoing importance of baptism in our lives. Baptism is not just something that happened a long time ago (for most of us), it defines who we are and gives us strength and comfort, even in the face of death.

Hymn of the Month

July: “We All Believe in One True God” (# 954)

Our catechism focus this summer will be the Creed, and so we will sing this hymn for the month of July. It was written by Martin Luther as part of his German Mass, and was intended to take the place of the confession of the creed. The tune is based on a medieval Latin chant, and can be a little tricky, but it’s certainly worth learning.

June / July Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

June Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

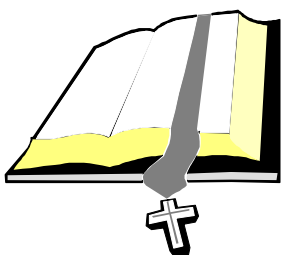
June 1	Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Gail Henson Howard Johnson
June 8	Frank Oslakovic Richard Clark Katie Kampenga Mike Kampenga
June 15	Gene Osmanski Bob Green Eric Rosenbrock Richard Clark
June 22	Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Nick Trojanowski Mark Trojanowski
June 29	Frank Oslakovic Gene Osmanski Ray Bennett Mary Slepiski

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

June 1	Ed Neaves
June 8	Mike Kampenga
June 15	Gene Osmanski
June 22	Mark Trojanowski
June 29	Ray Bennett

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

July 6	Debbie Hochgesang
July 13	Nick Trojanowski
July 20	Katie Kampenga
July 27	Ray Bennett



July Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

July 6	Ed Neaves Richard Clark Howard Johnson Gail Henson
July 13	Alden Ketchum Frank Oslakovic Nick Trojanowski Mark Trojanowski
July 20	Gene Osmanski Bob Green Mike Kampenga Katie Kampenga
July 27	Richard Clark Ed Neaves Eric Rosenbrock Ray Bennett

Faith Hope Peace (FHP) Ministries

Pastor Birkholz is on the Board of Directors for this ministry, that now brings weekly church services to 11 residential care facilities in the area. **Each week** during the month of **April 2014**, an average of about 215 fellow Christians gathered together to hear our Lord's wonderful news! This is a monthly total of approximately **1074** people that heard salvation by grace preached to them through our ministry!

On Good Friday, 2014 over **274** residents, their families, and volunteers celebrated the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ at **10** of our residential care facilities.

Also, we are adding a new facility to our ministry in June; **Sunrise in Naperville!** **FHP Ministries** continues to reach out to senior Christians in our nearby communities. If you would like to share your musical talents or help out at any of the weekly services, please contact **Craig Chidester, Executive Director**, at 630-710-0396 or cdc33@att.net or visit our website: www.fhpministries.org.