

FAITH NEWSLETTER

October 2014 / November 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Seventy-five years ago, a process began that would lead to the founding of our congregation. In October of 1939, Mrs. Carolina Desmond led a canvas of our neighborhood to invite everyone to a service held in the basement of the Hoppe home at 9530 Merrimac Ave. on October 22nd. The congregation grew quickly, and on April 12, 1940 it was officially chartered, and the original church building was dedicated on October 6th of that same year.

As we enter together into the 75th Anniversary Jubilee year of our congregation, there are a few things that we need to keep in mind.

First, all the good things that have happened at Faith over the years are a result of God's work, and not ours. This is not a time to pat ourselves on the back, but to give thanks and glory to God for what He has done in this place over the years.

Second, if we look honestly at our past, we see not only the good times, but also the bad, the times that we have failed to live up to our calling as the people of God, not just individually, but also together as a congregation. As we consider the past 75 years, our attitude is one of humble repentance.

Third, we cannot get so caught up in remembering the past that we ignore the future that lies ahead of us. You can't drive while only looking in the rear-view mirror. Our journey of Faith is a marathon that we have not yet completed. It is important for us to continue to look forward to new blessings that the Lord has in store for us.

A number of special services and events are planned for this fall to prepare us not only to remember the past, but to move together in Faith towards the future that the Lord has laid out for us. In this newsletter you'll find a lot more information about all of these events. Most importantly, there will be a special series of services from October 19 through November 23. More details about these services are found under "Anniversary Renewal Program" in this newsletter. Each week we will consider both how God has blessed us in the past and also how He will lead us into the future. It is vitally important that you are here with us for each of these seven Sundays. Being in church for seven weeks in a row is a serious commitment. It will mean making this time with God and your fellow Christians a priority, and saying, "no" to other things. Illnesses and emergencies may come up, but you should plan to be here for these seven Sundays as together we look to God's Word to shape our future as a congregation.

Most of you have been here at Faith longer than I have. You've seen a much longer stretch of the road. But it is my pleasure to run the race with you here at Faith in this place for as long as the Lord has use for me here.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

All Ladies of Faith are invited to our meetings on Oct. 2nd at 6:30 PM and Nov. 6th also at 6:30 PM. Both meetings will be centered around the Fall Bazaar.

The Fall Bazaar will be Nov. 8th from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. We will have the craft table, raffles, a white elephant table and a chili lunch.

The Nov. 6th meeting will be used to set up for the Bazaar. We will meet in the church basement.

There are many ways that you can help. You can help with the set up or the clean-up. You can bake, you can donate items to the white elephant sale, or you can make items for the craft table. You can also help the day of the Bazaar. **But the most important is to pray for our success and join us for lunch and shopping. We hope to see you there.**

Clean-up Day

You are invited to help with our fall clean-up day at Faith on Saturday, October 11th, starting at 9:00 AM. We will have projects available for anyone who is willing to help. Please bring some cleaning supplies.

New Constitution

Our constitution committee has completed an updated draft of our congregational constitution. We will be discussing the proposed constitution at a special congregational meeting at 10:30AM on Sunday, October 12th.

The new constitution will then be presented for a vote at the Voters Meeting on Sunday, November 9th at 10:30 AM. Copies of the proposed constitution are on the information table in the church narthex. If you would like a copy sent to you, please contact the church office.

The Word and the Wort

This men's Bible study is held at St. Paul Church in Oak Lawn. We meet on the first Monday of each month at 8:15 PM. Pastor Birkholz is leading a study of Galatians.

After the Bible study, the men learn about different beer styles and traditions.

Anniversary Book

We are in the process of creating an "Anniversary Book". It will be available for purchase upon completion.

It will contain a history of the church through words and pictures. Members throughout the decades will be included.

We are looking for Faith Church baptismal pictures, confirmation pictures, and wedding pictures of past or current members. If you can help, please contact Celeste Oslakovic at 708-599-6675. Any pictures will be returned to you.

Voters' Meeting

The next Voters' Meeting will be Nov. 9th after our worship service. This is an important meeting for you to attend. We will be voting on our 2015 budget and electing new officers.

Also, the updated constitution will be presented. Discussions will follow and a vote will be taken so it can be presented to Synod.

Circuit Reformation Service

On October 31st you will have an opportunity to join with fellow area Lutherans for a special Reformation Service to be held at 7:00 PM at Zion Lutheran Church, 5865 S Archer Rd in Summit. More details to come.

Thanksgiving Eve

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!" Join us in giving thanks to the Lord for His goodness to us and our congregation on Thanksgiving Eve, Nov 26th, for a special 7:00 PM service. All are welcome.

Anniversary Renewal Program

As we begin our anniversary year, our focus will be on **Hebrews 12:2**, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Using the picture of “running the race” each week we will consider what it means to run the race of Faith as we look to Jesus. There will also be special events following each service during the Bible Class hour.

October 19th : Preparing to Race - Running Free

We cannot run the race of faith if you are burdened or weighed down by sin or guilt. On Oct 19th we will begin our anniversary celebration with a service of confession and repentance and come together to receive forgiveness. Only Jesus can get rid us of these impediments and allow us to run free. During the week that follows, there will be opportunities to come to private confession and absolution (see following page).

October 26th : Starting the Race - Running with Jesus

Jesus has already run the race for us. He is the pioneer and the trailblazer, and He leads us along the path He has already run. On Oct 26th we fix our eyes on Him as we celebrate Reformation Day and the pure gospel of salvation by grace through faith. See information on Our 75th anniversary kick-off celebration on the following page.

November 2nd : Encouragement for the Race - Running in the Clouds

Not only do we run with Jesus, but we are surrounded by a “great cloud of witnesses,” the saints who have gone before us. As we celebrate All Saints’ Day on Nov 2nd, we will give thanks to God for those whom He uses to encourage us on the road, even after they have died. (see following page).

November 9th: Fueling the Race - Running on a Full Tank

It’s hard to race without proper fuel, and so the Lord fills us up with His Spirit every week through His Word and Sacrament. As we read the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids (Matthew) on Nov 9th we will see how the Lord gives us the fuel we need to run strong. This Sunday will also include our November Voters’ Meeting.

November 16th : Committing to the Race - Running All Out

Jesus tells the parable of the Talents (Matt 25) to show us the importance of trusting in Him, and investing all that He has given us for the work of His Kingdom.

November 23rd : Finishing the Race - Running Together to the End

What does the end of the race look like? How will our performance be judged? On the last Sunday of the Church Year, we get a preview of our Lord’s return and the end of the race. We will consider Jesus’ call to serve “the least of these” and how we have been doing that at Faith. Following the service, we will take a free will offering to give to the Southwest Pregnancy Center.

The race is not easy. The word used in Hebrews is *agōn*, which is where our word for “agony” comes from. But we don’t run the race alone, it is Jesus who shows us the way and travels with us. Join us for the race, beginning October 19th.

Anniversary Events

Anniversary Kick-off Celebration

Sunday, October 26th will mark the official beginning to our 75th anniversary celebration. A festival Reformation Service will be held at the regular 9:00 AM time.

Following the service there will be some games in the church basement, including a Faith Trivia Contest. The morning will conclude with a potluck luncheon. You are asked to bring a dish made using your family's oldest recipe.

Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

All Saints Day

Our celebration of All Saints' Day will be on November 2nd. Every year we give thanks to God for all those whom He has made His saints, particularly those who have died in the previous year. This year we will give thanks to God for:

Harry Kampenga
Helen Kutschke
Anna O'Neal

We will also give thanks for the new saints whom the Lord has made through Holy Baptism here at Faith:

Adriana Conrad
Tristin Johnston
Gabrielle Raske

On All Saints' Day we will also have available our "Great Cloud of Witnesses" booklet with stories of past Saints of Faith. Dr. Lynn Spellman White will be back to accompany our service on the violin. Following the service there will be a special time for sharing stories and memories of the saints whom the Lord has particularly used in each of our lives.

Service of Prayer & Supplication

October 19th will be a special service of confession and repentance. We will use the order of corporate confession, which we have used Maundy Thursday in previous years.

We will also pray together the litany, asking God to have mercy on us and forgive us. In Bible Class we will talk more about the importance of confession in our lives, and read together through Martin Luther's, "Brief Exhortation to Confession." We will see the joy and freedom that God gives us in Holy Absolution.

Private Confession and Absolution will be available during the following times:

Wednesday, Oct 22nd - 7:30 PM-9:00 PM
Thursday, Oct 23rd - 1:00 PM-3:00 PM
Friday, Oct 24th - 9:00 AM-10:00 AM

New Artwork

Faith is commissioning an original painting by Mark Kloess in celebration of our 75th Anniversary. Mark is a graduate of St. Paul Lutheran School in Oak Lawn and Luther South High School. He has served as a Lutheran teacher and pastor.

He is completing an art piece for us inspired by our theme verses from Hebrews 12:1-2. Please watch for further information on a special service to dedicate this work once it is completed.



Schedule of Oct. / Nov. 2014 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Oct. Event</u>
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
12	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
	10:15 AM	Sunday School

Weekly Meetings

Sunday School	Sunday - 10:15 AM
Bible Study	Fri. - 11:00 AM
Confirmation Class	Wed. - 3:30 PM
AA Groups	Mon. & Fri. - 6:00 PM
	Wed.-7:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
Alanon	Tue. - 7:30 PM

October Hymn of the Month

“Lord of Our Life” (# 659)

This hymn is a prayer for peace in the midst of all the conflict around us; from the world, from Satan, and even from our own sinful flesh. It was written by Matthäus Apelles Löwenstern in the midst of the Thirty Years’ War (1618-48). The hymn is a helpful reminder to us that in the midst of our struggles our Lord promises to bring us peace.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Nov. Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
2	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
9	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Voter’s Meeting
15	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
16	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
23	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
30	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
	10:15 AM	Sunday School

November Hymn of the Month

“Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses” (# 667)

Stephen Starke is one of the most talented living hymn writers. He serves as pastor of an LCMS congregation in Michigan and has composed dozens of inspiring lyrics. This hymn is a thoughtful interpretation of our anniversary theme verses from Hebrews 12.

The fifth verse is my favorite:

“Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending,
On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending;
Not knowing where we go, but that You lead us
With grace precede us.



Oct. / Nov Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Oct. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Oct. 5	Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Gail Henson Howard Johnson
Oct. 12	Frank Oslakovic Richard Clark Katie Kampenga Mike Kampenga
Oct. 19	Gene Osmanski Bob Green Richard Clark Eric Rosenbrock
Oct. 26	Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Nick Trojanowski Mark Trojanowski

Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7:00 PM

Nov. 26	Ed Neaves Alden Ketchum Frank Oslakovic Gene Osmanski
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Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Oct. 5	Ed Neaves
Oct. 12	Mike Kampenga
Oct. 19	Gene Osmanski
Oct. 26	Mark Trojanowski
Nov. 2	Ray Bennett
Nov. 9	Debbie Hochgesang
Nov. 16	Nick Trojanowski
Nov. 23	Katie Kampenga
Nov. 30	Ray Bennett



Nov. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Nov. 2	Frank Oslakovic Richard Clark Ray Bennett Mary Slepski
Nov. 9	Richard Clark Ed Neaves Gail Henson Howard Johnson
Nov. 16	Frank Oslakovic Alden Ketchum Nick Trojanowski Mark Trojanowski
Nov. 23	Gene Osmanski Bob Green Katie Kampenga Mike Kampenga
Nov. 30	Ed Neaves Richard Clark Eric Rosenbrock Ray Bennett

Faith Hope Peace (FHP) Ministries

This ministry now brings weekly church services to 12 residential care facilities in the area. **Each of the 4 weeks** during the month of **August 2014**, an average of about **204** fellow Christians gathered together to hear our Lord's wonderful news! We continue to look for volunteers to help us out.

Several women of our area congregations are working on Paraments for the altars at our 12 facilities. What a great way to further serve Christ and make our church services special for those who cannot attend a regular church service outside the facility!

We are also looking for a volunteer to manage our website. It is all set up, but needs some updating and additions. Can you help us out??

If you would like to share your technical talents, please contact Craig Chidester, Executive Director, at 630-710-0396 or cdc33@att.net.