

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

February 2015 / March 2015

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Dear Friends in Christ,

The season of Lent begins on February 18<sup>th</sup>. You probably know that Lent is a time of preparation for Easter.

There are lots of different traditions associated with Lent. In church you will notice the purple color of penitence, and a lot less chanting. We also put away the joyful sound of “alleluia” until Easter. You will have more opportunities to pray and reflect on God’s Word with the midweek Lenten services on Wednesday evenings.

Many people choose to observe Lent in their own personal lives as well. It’s common to “give up” certain foods or activities as part of a Lenten fast. As well as giving things up, it’s also a good idea to add certain things to your life during Lent, such as extra time in prayer and Bible Study, and extra giving to the poor.

Lent is designed to strip away anything that we would trust or find comfort in: food, wealth, entertainment, etc., so that all we are left with is Jesus Christ.

Take a moment to consider how you will observe Lent this year. What in your life needs to be added? What needs to be pared back? Consider how your life can be focused less and less on yourself and more and more on Jesus Christ.

Ultimately, Lent is not about anything that we do. The gradual for the Lenten season begins, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.” Anything that helps us see Jesus more clearly is a good thing. Anything that causes us to think and focus on ourselves is a distraction.

This time of year we are especially aware of our sinfulness and our helplessness. There is nothing that we can do to earn God’s love or favor. Our salvation is completely a gift through Jesus’ death and resurrection.

All the Lenten extras are designed to point you to Jesus and His death and resurrection for you. They are not to make you proud or boastful of anything that you’ve done. As Paul says, “But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Galatians 6:14)

God’s Blessings,

**Pastor Mark Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Ladies Aid

With a special prayer given by Erma Johnson, we started our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration dinner. We gave thanks to God for His blessings and we pray we will continue to support His work here at Faith.

Our membership is extended to all ladies of the church. We ask for a yearly donation of \$3.00. Meetings are the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall.

In Christian fellowship, please join us.

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## Anniversary Events

The anniversary committee would like to share the plans they have for Faith's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> will be a Vintage Fashion Show.**

Starting at 4:00 PM a supper of Sloppy Joes, pasta salad, a beverage and dessert will be available at a cost of \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Please join as we watch our models don fashions from the 1940's – 2015. Watch for tickets to be on sale.

### **March 28<sup>th</sup> will be a Trivia night.**

Starting at 5:00 PM we will partake of a Pot Luck supper with sandwiches and beverages provided. Plan on joining us; you might win a prize.

### **April 12<sup>th</sup> will be the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration.**

The day will start with our Sunday 9:00AM worship service. At 3:00 PM we will gather at Faith for a special 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary worship service.

The celebration will continue with a banquet at Bourbon Street Hall at 3359 W. 115<sup>th</sup> St. in Merrionette Park. This event will begin at 5:00PM and end at 9:00 PM.

Tickets will be on sale for the following costs:

Adults 21 yrs. + \$30.00  
Young adults 13 yrs. – 20 yrs. \$16.00  
Children 6 yrs. – 12 yrs. \$10.00  
Children under 5 yrs. Free

Invitations will be sent out by March 1<sup>st</sup> and RSVP's will need to be in by March 28<sup>th</sup>.

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## Lenten Midweek Services

Jesus Christ spoke seven times from the cross as He was dying. These last words of Jesus will form the basis of our Lenten meditations this year. Please join us each week for a time of prayer and reflection on Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent. The Ash Wednesday service will include the Lord's Supper. The other services will use the order of Compline. A light supper will also be served before the midweek services beginning on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lenten Midweek Services**

Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18): "Father, forgive them."

Midweek 1 (Feb. 25): "You will be with me in Paradise."

Midweek 2 (Mar. 4): "Woman, behold your son."

Midweek 3 (Mar. 11): "Why have you forsaken me?"

Midweek 4 (Mar. 18): "I thirst."

Midweek 5 (Mar. 25): "It is finished"

Good Friday (Apr. 3): "Into your hands I commit my spirit."

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## Youth Group

All youth from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to Middle School are invited to a Pizza Party on Sunday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Bring your friends as we get together with the purpose of making plans for future service events, fund raisers and fun days for the youth.

We will be planning things with St. Paul church so we can grow in membership. Our fund raisers will benefit both groups as they work toward being able to go on a youth retreat in the summer.



# Schedule of Feb. / Mar. 2015 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>February Event</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Food Pantry Distribution</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Worship / Communion</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Food Pantry Distribution</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Lenten Worship</b>

## Weekly Meetings

<b>Bible Study</b>	<b>Fri. - 11:00 AM</b>
<b>Confirmation Class</b>	<b>Fri. - 4:30 PM</b>
<b>AA Groups</b>	<b>Mon-Wed-Fri - 6:00 PM</b>
	<b>Sat. - 8:00 AM</b>
<b>Alanon</b>	<b>Tue. - 7:30 PM</b>

## Hymn of the Month – Lent

### “In Silent Pain the Eternal Son” (# 432)

This newer hymn was written by the Anglican priest Christopher Idle. The words focus our thoughts on the crucified Jesus as we see Him in His death. With simple yet profound language, this hymn helps us to see why Jesus died. The tune was composed by John L. Bell, whose Scottish roots come through in this lilting, melancholy melody. Bell currently serves in the Iona Community, a group located in Glasgow that focuses on issues of peace and justice.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>March Event</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Lenten Worship</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Food Pantry Distribution</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Congregation Meeting</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Lenten Worship</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Lenten Worship</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Food Pantry Distribution</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Lenten Worship</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>

## Community Children’s Choir

The children’s choir has begun rehearsals. If you are interested in joining and are age 5 or in grades up to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, please contact the church office or Carl Lisius.

Rehearsals are on Saturday morning starting at 9:00 AM.

Rehearsal dates are February 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> and March 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.



# Feb. / Mar. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

## February Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**Feb. 1** Alden Ketchum  
Ed Neaves  
Gail Henson  
Howard Johnson

**Feb. 8** Richard Clark  
Frank Oslakovic  
Katie Kampenga  
Mike Kampenga

**Feb. 15** Richard Clark  
Gene Osmanski  
Valerie Conrad  
Brianna Osterloh

**Feb. 22** Alden Ketchum  
Ed Neaves  
Mark Trojanowski  
Nick Trojanowski

## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

**Feb. 1** Ed Neaves

**Feb. 8** Mike Kampenga

**Feb. 15** Gene Osmanski

**Feb. 22** Mark Trojanowski

**Mar. 1** Ray Bennett

**Mar. 8** Debbie Hochgesang

**Mar. 15** Nick Trojanowski

**Mar. 22** Katie Kampenga

**Mar. 29** Ray Bennett

## March Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**Mar. 1** Frank Oslakovic  
Gene Osmanski  
Marilyn Diehl  
Eleonore Lang

**Mar. 8** Richard Clark  
Ed Neaves  
Gail Henson  
Howard Johnson

**Mar. 15** Alden Ketchum  
Frank Oslakovic  
Mark Trojanowski  
Nick Trojanowski

**Mar. 22** Richard Clark  
Gene Osmanski  
Katie Kampenga  
Mike Kampenga

**Mar. 29** Richard Clark  
Ed Neaves  
Richard Clark  
Valerie Conrad  
Brianna Osterloh

## Lenten Worship 7:00 PM Wednesday

**Feb. 18** Alden Ketchum  
Ed Neaves  
Valerie Conrad  
Brianna Osterloh

**Feb. 25** Frank Oslakovic  
Howard Johnson

**Mar. 4** Richard Clark  
Gene Osmanski

**Mar. 11** Ed Neaves  
Eric Rosenbrock

**Mar. 18** Alden Ketchum  
Frank Oslakovic

**Mar. 25** Richard Clark  
Howard Johnson

