

FAITH NEWSLETTER

June 2015 / July 2015



Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you ever had a hard time praying? You knew you should pray, or maybe someone put you on the spot and asked you to pray, and you just weren't sure where to start?

Don't feel bad, because you are in good company. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how to pray.

Prayer doesn't just come naturally. Prayer needs to be taught. Jesus is the best person to teach you how to pray.

When the disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray, he doesn't give them a method or a technique for prayer. He actually gives them a prayer to pray. We call this the "Lord's Prayer."

This is a wonderful gift, because you can pray it at any time and know that you are praying the way that Jesus wants you to pray. The Lord's Prayer is a prayer that you can pray in any or all circumstances. You should never feel bad about simply praying the Lord's Prayer, no matter what the occasion is. I know that when I'm visiting with someone or teaching a class or having devotions with our family, we can always pray the Lord's Prayer together.

The Lord's Prayer is a great way to bring people together. Did you ever notice that all the pronouns are plural? It's "Our Father" not "My Father." It's "Give us this day," not "Give me this day." "It's "Forgive us as we forgive," not "Forgive me as I forgive." You get the point. The Lord's Prayer has a way to bring people and families and congregations together.

Join us this summer as we explore the Lord's Prayer in depth, using Luther's Small Catechism as our guide. It will be a time for Jesus to once again teach us how to pray and bring us together as a congregation.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Mark Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

Thanks to all who helped to make our annual Rummage Sale a success. We are donating the profits to the Parsonage Window Fund.

Our June 4th meeting will be the last gathering until September. We welcome all ladies to this pizza and bingo evening at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Blessings of the summer.

VBS

Vacation Bible School is June 15-19 from 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM each day. This year we will be learning about Holy Week and remembering everything that Jesus does for us through his suffering, death, and resurrection. Please invite any young people you know to join us. Everyone is welcome to join us for our closing service on Friday, June 19 at 11:30 AM.

Summer Catechesis

For the past two years we have been spending a month or so each summer reviewing the catechism. We began with the 10 Commandments and the Creed, and this summer we will be going through the Lord's Prayer. Join us on July 19 – August 15 as the Lord teaches us to pray using His prayer.

Altar Guild

Have you considered serving the Lord by helping to prepare the sanctuary for services? The Altar Guild has the privilege of creating a beautiful place for us to meet the Lord each week. They would love to have you join them in this service. The Altar Guild will be meeting on Sunday, June 14 at 7:30p at the parsonage. Pastor and Amberleigh will provide desserts. Come along and learn more about this opportunity

Pictorial Directory

It's time for a new pictorial directory! Our directory committee includes Sheila Kush, Eric Rosenbrock, and Lori Slepski. You will be hearing from them soon with more information about having your portrait taken.

Picnic

June 7th is our annual church Picnic. We will meet at Wolfe Wildlife Preserve at 11:30 AM.

We will begin with lunch. Hot dogs and soda are provided. Please bring a dish for the common table along with your own paper plates and utensils. If you plan on joining in playing Bingo, then please bring a \$5.00 wrapped prize.

Volunteer Opportunity

Are you looking for a simple way to make a difference in someone's life? Faith, Hope, and Peace Ministries offers Lutheran church services in several area nursing homes, and can use assistants to help guide the residents through the services. All the services are on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings at 10:30. You can help out as often as you are able. For more information, see Pastor Birkholz.

Oriental Institute Trip – Aug. 1st

Did you know that the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute is one of the largest collections of Middle Eastern artifacts in the country? This wonderful museum is here in our backyard, and you will find many items that connect with the people and events of the Bible. Pastor Birkholz will be leading a tour of the Oriental Institute on Saturday, August 1. We will meet at the church at 1:00 PM and carpool to the museum. A donation of \$10 is requested for the museum.

Board of Directors

At the last Northern Illinois District Convention, Pastor Birkholz was elected to the District Board of Directors as pastoral representative for the East Region. This Board conducts the business of the District between conventions and oversees all District operation. Pastor Birkholz will serve a three year term beginning on June 1. Please keep Pastor and all our District leaders in your prayers.

Schedule of June / July 2015 Events

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>June Event</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 6 | 9:00 AM | Food Pantry Distribution |
| 7 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 11:30 AM | Church Picnic |
| 14 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:30 AM | Adult Bible Class |
| 20 | 9:00 AM | Food Pantry Distribution |
| 21 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:30 AM | Adult Bible Class |
| 28 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:30 AM | Adult Bible Class |

Weekly Meetings

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

Hymn of the Month

June: "Christ, Our Human Likeness Sharing" (# 847)

Timothy Dudley-Smith is an Anglican bishop and hymn writer born in 1926. Several of his hymns, including this one, were recently added to our repertoire through the LSB. This hymn focuses on the role of Christ in saving us, and how He uses us to serve our neighbor. The last verse makes this clear with its opening lines: "Come, O living Christ, renew us, as of old in wind and flame; with the Spirit's power endue us, servants of Your saving name."

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>July Event</u> |
|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 5 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:30 AM | Adult Bible Class |
| 12 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:30 AM | Adult Bible Class |
| 18 | 9:00 AM | Food Pantry Distribution |
| 19 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:30 AM | Adult Bible Class |
| 26 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:30 AM | Adult Bible Class |

Hymns of the Month

July 5 & 12: "Christ the Eternal Lord" (# 829)

For the first two weeks of July we will learn another one of Dudley-Smith's hymns, this one set to the tune of "Crown Him with Many Crowns." This hymn recounts all that Christ has done for us, from His existence with the Father from eternity, to His birth, death and resurrection, and finally His ascension to God's right hand. It reminds us of our journey with Christ throughout our lives and our promised life with Him forever.

July 19 - August 15: "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" (# 769) & "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" (# 766)

As we work our way through the Lord's Prayer, there will be two hymns that we will sing every week. Our opening hymn will be "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ." This very simple song reminds us that it's not up to us to find the words to pray, but the Holy Spirit leads and guides our prayers. Our hymn of the day will be Luther's great hymn "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above." Each verse explores one petition of the Lord's Prayer, so we will learn this verse by verse as we go through the catechism this summer.

June / July Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

June Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

| | |
|----------------|--|
| June 7 | Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Gail Henson Howard Johnson |
| June 14 | Richard Clark Frank Oslakovic Katie Kampenga Mike Kampenga |
| June 21 | Richard Clark Gene Osmanski Valerie Conrad Brianna Osterloh |
| June 28 | Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Mark Trojanowski Nick Trojanowski |

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| June 7 | Ed Neaves |
| June 14 | Mike Kampenga |
| June 21 | Katie Kampenga |
| June 28 | Ray Bennett |
| July 5 | Ed Neaves |
| July 12 | Debbie Hochgesang |
| July 19 | Mike Kampenga |
| July 26 | Mark Trojanowski |

July Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

| | |
|----------------|---|
| July 5 | Richard Clark Gene Osmanski Marilyn Diehl Eleonore Lang |
| July 12 | Ed Neaves Ray Bennett Mike Kampenga Katie Kampenga |
| July 19 | Alden Ketchum Frank Oslakovic Dora Haynes Mark Trojanowski |
| July 26 | Richard Clark Gail Henson Howard Johnson Mary Slepki |

Vacation

The Birkholz family will be on vacation from June 30th through July 16th. Pastor Dan Gensch will be our guest preacher on July 5th and July 12th.

If you have an emergency during this time, please contact one of our elders.

Service Day

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 27th at 9:00 AM. We will be having a congregation work day.

There is always something to be done around church to help make it shine.

