

FAITH NEWSLETTER

Aug. 2015 / Sept. 2015



Dear Friends in Christ,

I'm a big fan of the *Lord of the Rings*, both the books and the movies. When the movies came out, I was there on opening day. The first movie begins, "The world has changed..."

Many of you probably feel that way, especially those of you who have lived longer than I have. "The world has changed."

When you grew up, most or many Americans attended church every week. Nearly all of them identified as Christians. Today, over 20% of Americans claim to have no religion at all, and our churches are empty and closing.

When you grew up, it was expected that a man and a woman would get married before living together, and that divorce was a last resort. Today, more and more Americans are having sex before marriage, living together with no plans to marry, and divorce is commonplace. Just this summer same-sex marriage was made legal in all 50 states.

We could go on and on about how things have changed, and we could lament the state of our current society. But the Lord has given us something better to do than just wring our hands in hopelessness.

The Lord gathers us together each week in the Divine Service. In the midst of a changing world, the Divine Service connects you to our unchanging Lord and His unchanging world. Jesus Christ is your rock, your firm foundation that does not move. And it's in the Divine Service that He keep you firmly grounded in Him. The Divine Service also gives us an opportunity to pray for our world, for our leaders, and for our nation, that we return to Him with all our heart.

The Lord then sends you back into this changing, mixed up world to make a difference in the lives of the people around you. We could just circle the wagons and withdraw from the world, maybe set up a monastery and retreat. Instead, He's given you families, coworkers, neighbors, and friends to share His love and joy.

Finally, the Lord promises to change this world one last time for the better, when He returns to bring the new heavens and the new earth, a perfect world just the way that He intends it to be. Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Peace be with you,

Pastor Mark Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

We hope everyone had a safe and happy summer. Pretty soon fall will be upon us, as well as, fall festivities.

The Ladies Aid meeting Sept. 3rd, will start us off. We invite all ladies of Faith to join us at 6:30 P.M. We could use your input for planning our upcoming events.

We hope to see you then.

New Photo Directory:

Time to get your haircut and bust out your Sunday best, because it's time for a new photo directory! Our last directory is six years old now, and we have lots of new faces in our congregation.

Pictures will be taken at church on Tuesday, September 23rd and Wednesday, September 24th from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM each day. You can schedule your appointment in person at church or online.

There is no cost to have your photo taken. In fact, you will receive a free 8x10 and a free photo directory just for participating. You will be given the opportunity to purchase additional photos, but you are under no obligation to buy anything.

Parsonage Open House

All members and friends of the congregation are invited to an Open House at the Faith Parsonage on Saturday, August 22nd to see the new windows.

Come any time between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM Refreshments will be provided; just bring yourself. Please RSVP by August 19th.

Sunday School

Faith Sunday School will resume on Sunday, September 13th. All children age 3 and older are welcome to attend.

If you are interested in volunteering for Sunday School, please contact Mike Kampenga.

Pastor to teach at Concordia

Once again this fall, Pastor Birkholz will be teaching a course entitled "The Bible" on Tuesday evenings at Concordia University Chicago at the River Forest Campus.

This means that Pastor Birkholz will be unavailable for meetings or visits on Tuesday evenings, except in the case of emergencies.

September Voters Meeting

Our next voters meeting will be on Sunday, September 20th at 10:30 AM. At this meeting we will present the slate of officers and the budget for 2016.

If you would like to serve in any congregational office or would like to nominate another person, please contact Ed Neaves.

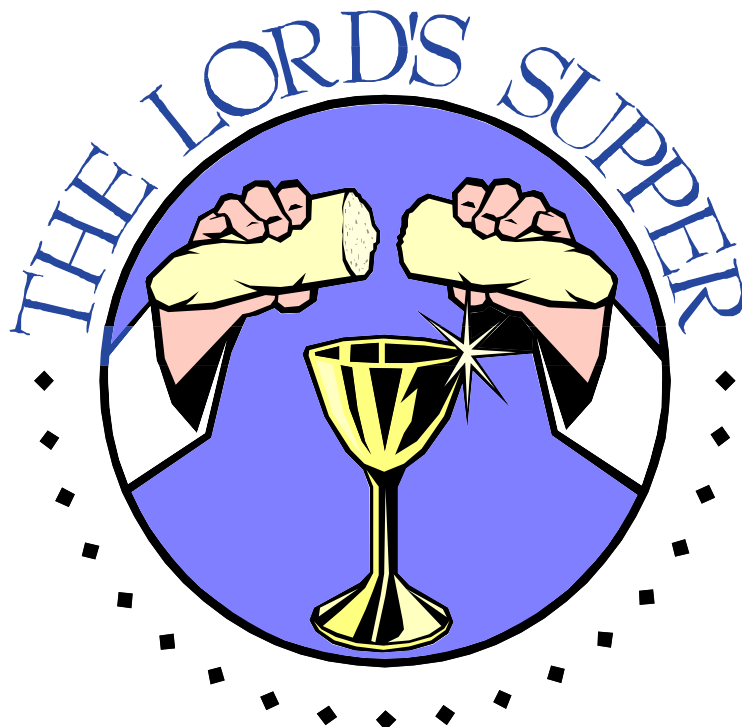
Schedule of Aug. / Sept. 2015 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>August Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
2	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Family Bible Class
9	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Family Bible Class
15	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
16	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Family Bible Class
23	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Family Bible Class
30	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Family Bible Class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>September Event</u>
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Family Bible Class
13	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Voters' Meeting
27	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

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



Aug. / Sept. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Aug. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

August 2 Frank Oslakovic
Ed Neaves
Mike Kampenga
Katie Kampenga

August 9 Alden Ketchum
Eric Rosenbrock
Howard Johnson
Mark Trojanowski

August 16 Ed Neaves
Richard Clark
Valerie Conrad
Brianna Osterloh

August 23 Alden Ketchum
Frank Oslakovic
Ray Bennett
Dora Haynes

August 30 Richard Clark
Gene Osmanski
Marilyn Diehl
Eleonore Lang

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Aug. 2 Gene Osmanski

Aug. 9 Mike Kampenga

Aug. 16 Katie Kampenga

Aug. 23 Ray Bennett

Aug. 30 Ed Neaves

Sept. 6 Debbie Hochgesang

Sept. 13 Mike Kampenga

Sept. 20 Mark Trojanowski

Sept. 27 Gene Osmanski

Sept. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Sept. 6 Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett
Mike Kampenga
Katie Kampenga

Sept. 13 Alden Ketchum
Frank Oslakovic
Dora Haynes
Mark Trojanowski

Sept. 20 Richard Clark
Gail Henson
Howard Johnson
Mary Slepiski

Sept. 27 Ed Neaves
Gene Osmanski
Marilyn Diehl
Eleonore Lang

