

FAITH NEWSLETTER

Feb. / Mar. 2017



Dear Friends in Christ,

We never know how much time we have left in this earthly life. We have been reminded of this fact recently, due to the sudden deaths of several members and friends of our congregation, as well as illnesses and accidents of others. As much as we try to have everything under control, we are constantly reminded that we are not in control, and that death can come to any of us with little or no warning.

So what do we do, and how do we handle life in the midst of the grave uncertainty? There are several ways to be prepared for death, whenever it may come.

The first thing that you should do is to be in a right relationship with God. Read His Word and turn to Him in prayer. Come to church regularly to receive forgiveness and to eat and drink His body and blood. Don't wait. Don't think to yourself, "I'll do it when things settle down at work," or "I'll come back to church when the kids are older," or "I'll have more time when I retire." Stop making excuses, because you may not have the time that you think that you have.

The second thing that you should do is to get your earthly affairs in order. You don't want your loved ones to have to sort through a mess, if something unexpected happens to you. Funeral planning can be a difficult thing to do on short notice. If you take the time now to get everything set, it will make it a lot simpler for your family when your time comes. Beginning in Lent, our Sunday morning Bible Class will focus on death and resurrection. One aspect of this study will be funeral planning. Be sure to come so that you can help make everything ready.

The final thing that you should do is to make the most of the time that you have left here on earth. Ask yourself what good you can accomplish, what sort of difference you can make in the lives of the people around you.

As Christians, when and how we die is still uncertain, but we do have the sure and certain hope of eternal life. Jesus rose from the dead, you will rise, too. Therefore, we can face the future with hope, knowing that what God has in store for us is better than we could possibly imagine.

God's Blessings

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Family Bingo

Saturday, February 25th will be our Faith Family Bingo. The time will be 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Bring your friends and family for great food and fun. If you can donate a prize of a gift card or cash please speak to Mike Kampenga. We hope to see you there.

Ladies Aid

Blessings of the New Year.

Our first meeting for the year will be Thursday, Feb. 2nd at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Our annual dues are \$5.00.

We will be making plans for the coming year and for our rummage sale. After the meeting we will socialize with a game night.

All ladies of the church are invited to join us for an evening of fellowship.

New Bible Class Death and Life

On Sunday, March 5, we will begin a new study on death and life. We will discuss important issues surrounding death such as suicide and end of life healthcare decisions. We'll talk about funeral planning and topics including cremation and embalming. We'll also consider what the Bible says about what happens when you die, what heaven is like, and how to deal with grief. Please come and bring your questions?

Save the Date

It is never too early to make plans for our Vacation Bible School.

Please save the dates of June 19th – 23rd. Mark your calendars and tell your friends and family to do the same.

Lenten Services

This year Ash Wednesday is on March 1. Divine Service with communion will be celebrated at 7:00p. The Imposition of Ashes will be available at the beginning of the service for those who wish to receive them.

For the following midweek services in Lenten, our theme will be "The Body of Christ." Each evening we will meditate on a different part of Jesus' body as we remember His suffering for us. These services also begin at 7:00p.

March 8: Jesus' Back

March 15: Jesus' Head

March 22: Jesus' Hands

March 29: Jesus' Feet

April 5: Jesus' Heart

Reformation Reading

Hopefully you're keeping up with your reading of the New Testament. Here is the schedule for February and March:

<u>Week of</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Feb 5	Matthew 26-28; Romans 1-2
Feb 12	Romans 3-7
Feb 19	Romans 8-12
Feb 26	Romans 13-16; James 1
Mar 5	James 2-5, 1 Peter 1
Mar 12	1 Peter 2-5; 2 Peter 1
Mar. 19	2 Peter 2-3; Jude (whole book); Luke 1-2
Mar. 26	Luke 3-7

Schedule of Feb. / Mar. 2017 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Feb. Event</u>
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
12	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

Bible Study	Fri. - 10:00 AM
AA Groups	Mon.&Fri. - 6:00 PM
	Wed. - 7:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
Alanon	Tue. - 7:30 PM

February. Hymn of the month:

“Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me” (# 683)

Our hymn for February was written by the great Lutheran hymnist, Paul Gerhardt. It was translated into English by John Wesley, one of the founders of Methodism.

The original version actually had 16 verses. This hymn is a meditation on the love of Jesus. It is written in the form of a prayer, a request for the love of God to live in our heart and to guide our actions.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Mar. Event</u>
1	7:00 AM	Lenten Worship
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
8	7:00 AM	Lenten Worship
12	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
15	7:00 AM	Lenten Worship
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
22	7:00 AM	Lenten Worship
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
29	7:00 AM	Lenten Worship

March Hymn of the Month

“My Song is Love Unknown” (# 430)

The earliest English hymns were paraphrases of psalms. This work by Samuel Crossman is an example of a more free verse meditation.

Here we ponder Jesus’ rejection and his loneliness that followed him throughout His life, all the way to the tomb. My favorite line is from the first verse, “Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.”

This tune was written over two hundred years later by John Ireland. As the story goes, he was asked to provide music for this hymn, and wrote the tune on a scrap of paper in 15 minutes.

Feb. / Mar. 2017 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

February Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb.. 5 Frank Oslakovic
Ed Neaves
Mary Slepски
Gail Henson

Feb. 12 Gene Osmanski
Alden Ketchum
Cheyenne Breitbarth
Mark Trojanowski

Feb. 19 Ed Neaves
Richard Clark
Marilyn Diehl
Eleonore Lang

Feb. 26 Frank Oslakovic
Gene Osmanski
Mike Kampenga
Katie Kampenga

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 5 Gene Osmanski

Feb. 12 Mike Kampenga

Feb. 19 Katie Kampenga

Feb. 26 Ray Benett

Mar. 5 Ed Neaves

Mar. 12 Dora Haynes

Mar. 19 Debbie Hochgesang

Mar. 26 Mark Trojanowski



March Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Mar. 5 Richard Clark
Alden Ketchum
Cheyenne Breitbarth
Mark Trojanowski

Mar. 12 Gene Osmanski
Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett
Dora Haynes

Mar. 19 Frank Oslakovic
Richard Clark
Kenilynn Breitbarth
Mark Trojanowski

Mar. 26 Ed Neaves
Mike Kampenga
Eleonore Lang
Katie Kampenga

Lenten Services 7:00 PM

Mar. 1 Richard Clark
Mike Kampenga
Gail Henson
Mary Slepски

Mar. 8 Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett

Mar. 15 Frank Oslakovic
Alden Ketchum

Mar. 22 Mike Kampenga
Gene Osmanski

Mar. 29 Richard Clark
Ed Neaves

