

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

August / September 2017

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Dear Friends in Christ,

You might not know much about the book of Esther. It never comes up in the cycle of readings we use in church. We haven't studied it in Bible Class (yet). It almost didn't even make it into the Bible because it never mentions God by name.

The Book of Esther is about a young Jewish girl living in exile in Persia. She eventually rises to become queen of the empire. At that time one of the king's advisors plots to wipe out the Jewish people, and Esther's cousin Mordecai becomes aware of it. Mordecai pleads with Esther to help her people and to plead with the king to spare them.

Esther is afraid. She doesn't really want to get involved. But then Mordecai says to her, "Who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14b) Mordecai suggests to Esther that the whole reason for her becoming queen was for this time of need.

God had put Esther in that place of honor and responsibility in order to do good through her, and to save His people. She was scared. She didn't feel up to the job. But in the end she trusted in God and the people were saved.

God has brought you to this congregation, to Faith Lutheran Church, for such a time as this. Yes, we have challenges we face as a congregation, and you may not feel up to the task. But God has put you here. You have specific gifts and strengths that no one else has.

Even though God is not mentioned by name in the book of Esther, we can see His hand at work in using different people to serve Him in many ways. God may not be doing big, spectacular things here at Faith, but we can still see Him at work here among us; forgiving sins, strengthening our Faith, and building us up as a community.

Consider that question today. Why has God brought me to this congregation? What can He accomplish here through me?

God's Blessings,

**Pastor Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Ladies Aid

I hope everyone is enjoying our beautiful summer and getting ready for our September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. After our business meeting, we will have coffee and dessert. Then we will begin an observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

If you can, please bring your German Lutheran ancestry history with you to the meeting. It will be fun to share stories.

At our October meeting we will share memories and pictures of our personal confirmation of the Lutheran faith.

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## Christian Conversation

This fall a new group will be using our facilities. Classical Conversations is a Christian association of homeschool families using the classical model of education. Although no members of Faith are connected with Classical Conversations, this is an opportunity to serve families in our community. They are currently planning to have orientation days on August 7 & 14, with classes beginning on August 21. Classes will be from 8:30 AM-3:30 PM on Mondays through next spring.

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## Sunday School

Be ready for Sunday School to start up in September. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins. Remember, to share this with your friends and invite them to hear about Jesus.

## Hymns of the Month

*(Since 2011 we have now learned 75 hymns through the Hymn of the Month program! We're now on hymns # 76 & 77.)*

### August:

#### **“Christ Sits at God’s Right Hand” (# 564)**

Several of the new hymns in the Lutheran Service Book were written by LCMS pastor Stephen Starke, and this is another example. Drawing from the book of Hebrews, this hymn reminds us that we enter the presence of God through the blood of Christ. The tune is Hebrew, and is also used for “The God of Abraham Praise.”

### September:

#### **“Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray” (# 663)**

Lawyers sometimes get a bad reputation, but this stirring hymn was written by a lawyer, Johann Freystein (1671-1718). He spent most of his career in Dresden, Germany and served for a time on the Board of Public Works. This hymn is a reminder to be vigilant against our enemies: Satan (v. 2), the world (v. 3), and our sinful flesh (v. 4), and concludes with a reminder that God is our source of protection and strength.



# Schedule of August / September 2017 Events

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Aug. Event</u>
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>
13	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>
27	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>

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## Weekly Meetings

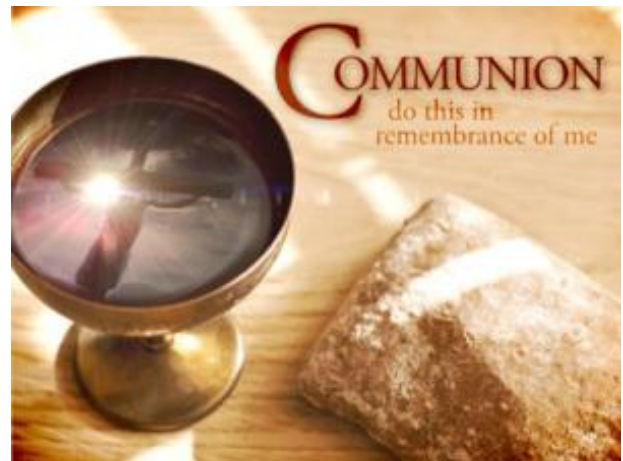
<b>Bible Study</b>	Fri. - 10:00 AM
<b>AA Groups</b>	Mon. & Fri. - 6:00 PM
	Wed. & Thur. - 7:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
<b>Alanon</b>	Tue. - 7:30 PM

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<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sept. Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>
10	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>
24	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>

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# Aug. / Sept. 2017 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

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## Aug. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**Aug. 6** Alden Ketchum  
Ed Neaves  
Mary Slepiski  
Ray Bennett

**Aug. 13** Mike Kampenga  
Gene Osmanski  
Kenilynn Breitbarth  
Mark Trojanowski

**Aug. 20** Alden Ketchum  
Richard Clark  
Marilyn Diehl  
Eleonore Lang

**Aug. 27** Mike Kampenga  
Ed Neaves  
Katie Kampenga  
Kenilynn Breitbarth

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## Sept. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**Sept. 3** Gene Osmanski  
Richard Clark  
Cheyenne Breibarth  
Mark Trojanowski

**Sept. 10** Mike Kampenga  
Alden Ketchum  
Mary Slepiski  
Ray Bennett

**Sept. 17** Ed Neaves  
Richard Clark  
Ray Bennett  
Dora Haynes

**Sept. 24** Gene Osmanski  
Alden Ketchum  
Marilyn Diehl  
Katie Kampenga

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## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

**Aug. 6** Ray Benett

**Aug. 13** Mike Kampenga

**Aug. 20** Katie Kampenga

**Aug. 27** Debbie Hochgesang

**Sept. 3** Cheyenne Breibarth

**Sept. 10** Kenilynn Breitbarth

**Sept. 17** Dora Haynes

**Sept. 24** Mark Trojanowski

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