

FAITH NEWSLETTER

October / November 2018



Dear Friends in Christ,

A few weeks ago, Pastor Hans Fiene of River of Life Lutheran in Channahon shared this parable:

“Once upon a time, Hazel sewed her family's clothes. She lived in an era when there were no department stores or major clothing labels. And Hazel's family couldn't afford the services of the nearest tailor, so Hazel sewed because that's what was necessary to survive. And because it was necessary to survive, Hazel taught this skill to her daughter Sarah.

“When Sarah grew up and had her own family, she found that this skill was no longer a necessity. For a reasonable cost, and with the aid of a department store or a catalog, she could contract someone else to do the hard work of measuring and cutting and stitching. But even though she didn't need to sew anymore, Sarah still pulled out the Singer from time to time. She'd sit down with her daughter Kimberly in her lap and make a garment or two around Christmas. Sarah did this because the feel of the thread on her fingertips and the vibrations of the sewing machine on her palms reminded her of her mother, and she wanted to give some of those memories to her child.

“But Kimberly couldn't even tell you how to thread a needle anymore. Her grandmother sewed out of necessity. Her mother sewed out of nostalgia. But Kimberly doesn't sew at all because, without necessity, nostalgia rarely makes it to the second generation.

“The Christian faith is necessary. You are dead without it and nothing in this world can replace the salvation that Jesus gives to those who hear and believe His Word. But when your pastor doesn't see you for months at a time, when you let every conflict bump the Divine Service off your Sunday schedule, when you never talk theology with your children, you teach them that the Word of God is nothing more than a trinket we pull out of the closet whenever we want to taste the sweetness of our familial heritage. And when you teach that to your children, your children will not grow up to be Christians. They will not believe any more than Kimberly sews.”

Passing on the faith to your children can certainly be a struggle. We need to be sure that our kids and grandkids realize that going to church is not just one another recreational activity - something that we do simply because we enjoy it. They will quickly find other activities that they find to be more fun, relaxing, or interesting.

While we certainly should enjoy going to church, we go first and foremost because we need to. We need to be forgiven, and church is where Jesus gives out forgiveness. Skipping church is like skipping a medical treatment. We don't skip going to dialysis or chemotherapy just because we don't feel like it or have something better to do. We recognize how important and necessary it is, and so we make sacrifices so that we can be there and receive the treatment that we need. People who don't go to church tend to think that either they don't have any sins to be forgiven, or that they can find forgiveness elsewhere.

The good news is that the forgiveness we receive from Jesus is free, and that, no matter how long we have been away from Him, He's always ready to welcome us back home.

God's Blessings

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

The next Ladies Aid meeting will be on Oct. 4th at 6:30 PM. We will be making plans for our Fall Bazaar which will be on Nov. 10th. Our November meeting will be changed to Nov. 8th so we can set up for the Bazaar. The Bazaar starts at 10:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM. Chili and Hot dogs will be served for lunch. Keep in mind that the ladies could use help from any church members before, after and during the bazaar. Bakery, white elephant items, crafts, and your support and attendance will be greatly appreciated.

Missions of the Month

October: BEDS Plus

BEDS Plus operates rotating shelters for the homeless from Oct. 1st through May 15th. They work with their guests to help find them permanent housing options. On Wednesday evenings throughout October we will be making snacks that can be provided with the sack lunches which guests receive. Flo Breitbarth will give a brief presentation after church on October 14th to share more about BEDS Plus.

November: Faith Food Pantry

As we give thanks for our Lord's many blessings, it's important to remember those who struggle to put food on the table for our family. Last year we made a soup mix to give out at the Food Pantry, and it was very well received. We will probably be doing something similar again this year.

Reformation

On October 28th we will give thanks for the Lord's good use of Martin Luther and other teachers of the faith to share the gospel in every age. Join us to sing "A Mighty Fortress" and receive our Lord's good gifts.

Chili Cook - Off

The Faith Trustees will be hosting the fourth annual Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, October 20th. Anyone is welcome to enter a pot of chili, or just come and taste. Hot Dogs and Pulled Pork Sandwiches will also be available. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. All proceeds will go to the Faith Building Fund for use in maintenance and repairs of our facilities

All Saints' Day

This year we will celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday, November 4th. We will especially remember the members of our congregation who have fallen asleep in Jesus over the past year:

Dorothy Blume
Marshall Peterson
Joyce Stroh
Gene Tebo

We will also give thanks for those who have been baptized at Faith in the past year:

Savannah Bojan
Majesta Schillaci
Marlanna Schillaci
Michael Schillaci

You will also have an opportunity to add names to our remembrance of those who were not members of our congregation, or members who have died in previous years.

Thanksgiving Eve

Our Thanksgiving Service will be at 7:00 PM on Wednesday November 21st. For something new this year, we will be having a pie reception following the service. Bring a favorite pie (homemade or store-bought) and we will join in giving thanks for our Lord's bountiful blessings.

Schedule of Oct. / Nov. 2018 Events

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Oct. Event</u> |
|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| 6 | 9:00 AM | Food Pantry Distribution |
| 7 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Class |
| 14 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Class |
| 20 | 9:00 AM | Food Pantry Distribution |
| 21 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Class |
| 28 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Class |

Weekly Meetings

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

Hymn of the Month

October: "O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe"

The Thirty Years' war was fought in Europe from 1618 - 1648 over the issue of the Reformation. When it seemed as though the Lutherans would be crushed, King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden came to the rescue. A pivotal battle was fought at Lützen on Nov. 16, 1632. Before the battle the king held a prayer service and requested that this hymn be sung. Gustavus Adolphus led his troops into battle without any armor, trusting in the Lord to protect him. He died in battle that day, but his army won the victory. We are reminded that we continue to fight, not against earthly enemies, but against Satan and his host. Our only hope is through Jesus Christ, who has won the victory for us.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Nov. Event</u> |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| 3 | 9:00 AM | Food Pantry Distribution |
| 4 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Class |
| 11 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Class |
| 17 | 9:00 AM | Food Pantry Distribution |
| 18 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Class |
| 21 | 7:00 PM | Thanksgiving Eve Worship / Communion |
| 25 | 9:00 AM | Worship / Communion |
| | 10:15 AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 AM | Bible Class |

Hymn of the Month

November: "Jerusalem the Golden"

In the 12th century, a monk named Bernard of Cluny wrote a 3,000 line poem entitled De Contemptu Mundi ("Concerning Contempt for the World"). This work contrasts the corruption and evil of our present world with the bliss and glory of the new creation. John Mason Neale translated portions of this poem in the mid-1800s, which later became four different hymns: "Brief Life is Here Our Portion" (TLH # 448); "The World Is Very Evil" (TLH # 605); "For Thee, O Dear, Dear Country" (TLH # 614) and "Jerusalem the Golden." This final hymn focuses on the beauty and joy of heaven, and so is fitting as we celebrate All Saints' Day and the end of the Church Year.

Oct. / Nov. 2018 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Oct. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

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|----------------|--|
| Oct. 7 | Ed Neaves Mark Trojanowski Mary Slepski Ray Bennett |
| Oct. 14 | Mike Kampenga Richard Clark Kenilynn Breitbarth Marilyn Diehl |
| Oct. 21 | Ed Neaves Mark Trojanowski Katie Kampenga Sheila Kush |
| Oct. 28 | Mike Kampenga Richard Clark Sarah Kampenga Rachel Kampenga |

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

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|----------------|-------------------------|
| Oct. 7 | Ed Neaves |
| Oct. 14 | Mike Kampenga |
| Oct. 21 | Katie Kampenga |
| Oct. 28 | Debbie Hochgesang |
| Nov. 4 | Mark Trojanowski |
| Nov. 11 | Angela Schillaci |
| Nov. 18 | Dora Haynes |
| Nov. 25 | Ray Bennett |

Nov. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Nov. 4 | Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Cheyenne Breitbarth Mark Trojanowski |
| Nov. 11 | Ed Neaves Mike Kampenga Mary Slepski Ray Bennett |
| Nov. 18 | Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Sheila Kush Dora Haynes |
| Nov. 21 | 7:00 PM Richard Clark Ed Neaves Gene Osmanski Marilyn Diehl |
| Nov. 25 | Gene Osmanski Alden Ketchum Marilyn Diehl Katie Kanpenga |

