

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

December 2004 / January 2005

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There once was a children's Christmas play with passionate actors. As the children portrayed the story of the birth of Christ, they came to the time when Joseph and Mary could find no room in the inn. At this particular place, the boy playing Joseph was carried away by the part, and he began to passionately plead with the innkeeper, pointing to Mary and explaining their difficult straits. Finally, the other boy who was playing the innkeeper said, "Aw, shucks, I'm not supposed to do this, but come in anyway."

The innkeeper wasn't supposed to extend the invitation, but he did anyway. One little invitation changed the course of the play. One little invitation can also change the course of a person's life.

Our neighborhoods are filled with Mary's and Joseph's who feel like they are on the outside looking in. Unloved. Unwanted. Uninvited. There's no place for them in the inn.

But there is a place for them in the church and a place for them in the heart of Christ. For He is constantly inviting.

Jesus said to Peter, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and walked on water.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

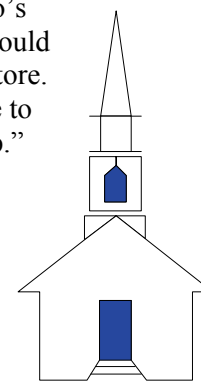
And Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Jesus is still saying, "Come" and He says it through us.

Who will you invite to worship this Christmas? It could be the neighbor who's down on his luck. It might be the spouse who usually doesn't make it to church. It could be someone you meet today – someone at the bank or the gas station or the grocery store. Keep your knees on the ground and your eyes open, and God will show that someone to you. Then invite by simply saying, "Come. There's a place for you. I'll pick you up."

Here's the schedule:

- Sunday School Christmas Service (December 19) – 10:00am
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (December 24) – 7:00pm
- Christmas Communion Celebration Service (December 25) – 10:00am
- Day after Christmas Sunday Worship (December 26) – 10:00am



A simple invitation can change the course of a play or the course of a life. I personally invite you to worship with us at Christmas time and throughout the year. Come. And bring a Mary or a Joseph with you.

Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Mike Gudgel*

# In and Around Faith Church

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## LWML

Activities will start again after the New Year. I want to thank everyone for contributing to the door offering on LWML Sunday. It will help fund the projects for 2004.

All Ladies are invited to Christmas Tea at St. Paul on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to attend, let me know so reservations can be made.

Grace Scott

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## Faith Seniors

Our Seniors will meet on December 16<sup>th</sup> at Georgio's Restaurant for a Christmas lunch. Our regular meetings will start in January.

Grace Scott

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## Charitable Donation

Former member Arnold Martin has donated three gravesites at Bethania Cemetery to Faith Church. They are located on Lot 21, Sec. 2, Div. E and are currently valued at \$1035 each if purchased from the cemetery.

Please speak with Frank Oslakovic if you wish to make a discounted offer to purchase some or all of these gravesites from Faith.

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## Sunday School

Thank you to everyone that supported our fund raising effort.

You are invited to the children's Christmas program "The Night the Animals Sang" at 10:00 AM on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be only one service that day. We hope to see you there.

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## Advent Folders

The special coin folders for use during the Advent season can be found on the Literature Table. This special Advent offering will help us in our mission here at Faith.

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## Ladies Aid

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Fall Bazaar. The success of this event is due in part to all the workers involved and also the contributions from businesses and our members and to everyone who attended.

The following is a list of donors:

The Chicago Cubs, The Chicago White Sox, The Chicago Bulls, The Chicago Wolves, The Chicago Blackhawks, The Chicago Fire, Moraine Valley Theatre, Founders Bank, LaSalle Bank, TCF Bank, Pacini Restaurant, Hair By Design.

The Ladies will be celebrating Christmas on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> with a potluck dinner at 5:00 PM. Please bring a dish for the common table while we provide the chicken. Then we will attend a concert at Moraine Valley Community College. If you are still interested in a ticket contact Mary Slepki at 425-4732.

Have you made a New Year's resolution for 2005? We are praying that you will consider joining Faith Ladies Aid. We will be celebrating our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We look forward to seeing you on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM for a soup dinner. Our annual dues are \$3.00. We need your help to continue with Christian Fellowship and also the help we provide our Church.

Kathleen Nowak  
Membership Chairperson

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## Altar Guild

For anyone who signed up for flowers this year, the Altar Guild is requesting you to please make your payment before the end of the year. Thank you.

Watch for our annual fund raiser Christmas Tree in the Narthex.



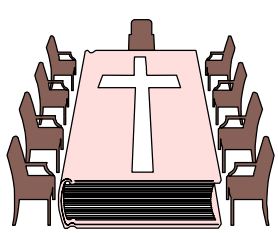
# Schedule of December 2004 / January 2005 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>December Event</u>
1	7:00 PM	Advent Service
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	8:30 AM 9:45 AM 11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Sunday School Adult Bible Class Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
8	7:00 PM	Advent Service
12	8:30 AM 9:45 AM 11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg. Sunday School Adult Bible Class Worship / Children's Msg.
15	7:00 PM	Advent Service
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	10:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Program
24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
25	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Worship / Communion
26	10:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>January Event</u>
2	8:30 AM 9:45 AM	Worship / Communion Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
9	8:30 AM 9:45 AM	Worship / Children's Msg. Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
15	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
16	8:30 AM 9:45 AM	Worship / Communion Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
23	8:30 AM 9:45 AM	Worship / Children's Msg. Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
30	8:30 AM 9:45 AM	Worship / Communion Adult Bible Class Sunday School
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.

## Weekly Meetings

AA Groups	M, F- 6:00 PM - Sat - 8:00 AM
Brownies	Fri - 4:15 PM
ALANON	Tu - 8:00 PM
Choir	W - 6:30 PM
Seniors	(Third) - Th. - 12:00 PM
Ladies Aid	(First) - Th. - 7:00 PM



## Service Time Changes

Please note the following special worship service **times** so you can join us.

Wednesday Evening Advent Worship  
7:00 PM December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>

Sunday School Christmas Service  
10:00 AM December 19<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
7:00 PM December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Celebration Service  
10:00 AM December 25<sup>th</sup>

Sunday Morning Worship  
10:00AM December 26<sup>th</sup>