

FAITH NEWSLETTER

April 2005 / May 2005

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Post-Easter is a great time of the year. Sure we have to put up with April showers, but those April showers bring blossoms to May flowers and lead to the beauty of summer.

Post-Easter is also a great time in the church year. It is the time to celebrate light and life through Christ. He became our Life by being shrouded in death and liberated in resurrection.

One of my favorite post-Easter stories centers on a conversation between Jesus and Peter. Jesus and His eleven disciples were sitting on the beach eating breakfast. After they finished the meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love Me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed My lambs.”

Again Jesus said, “Simon, son of John, do you truly love Me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of My sheep.”

The third time He said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love Me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love Me?” He said, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.”

Not once, not twice, but three times. Why does Jesus keep repeating this question? Why does Jesus keep badgering Peter? Not once, not twice, but three times.

Perhaps that little phrase – “not once, not twice, but three times” – rings a bell with people who have just come through the wintry days of Lent. It certainly rang a bell for Peter; that’s one of the reasons why he “was hurt.” For Peter knew his past. He had denied knowing his Lord not once, not twice, but three times.

Peter denied knowing Christ, but our Lord still loved him to death and loved Him back to life. He reinstated Peter as a disciple. From that point on Peter was more than a follower of Christ, he was also a leader for Christ. He was chosen to be a pastor, to lead the sheep for the Good Shepherd. He was appointed to feed the sheep in the stead and by the command of Christ.

I love this story. Maybe it’s because I am a pastor who identifies with Peter. I keep stumbling. I keep denying my Lord. Jesus Christ knows my past failures, but He still loved me to death and He keeps on loving me back to life.



The wonderful post-Easter season of life is here. The world around you is springing back from death to life. May it serve as a daily reminder of God’s love for you in Christ – a Love that went to death and came back to life to revive you as His beloved disciple.

Yours in the Risen Savior,

Pastor Mike Gudgel

In and Around Faith Church

LWML

Our next activity will be the Spring Rally on April 23rd at St. Peter Church located at 86th and Kedvale in Chicago.

Our speaker will be Barbara Cortland, our Circuit President. She will talk about her mission visit to Nicaragua, where she spread the Gospel to the native women. It promises to be very interesting. Come join us!

Grace Scott

Youth Group

Another fun, faith-building weekend is coming up for the youth. We will be going on a retreat to Camp CILCA this spring. April 22-24 are the dates to remember. Watch for more details and speak to Pastor if you are interested in attending.

Spring Outreach

Our plans are well under way for our follow up outreach to the community. With VBS, the Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree and Sunday School, it's time to reconnect with the community.

Our *Jump into Summer* will be on Saturday, May 21st from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM in the church parking lot. At this time we need your help so this event will be a success. A sign up sheet will be on a table in the Narthex. Please take the time to sign up for a few hours on May 21st.

Please contact Celeste Oslakovic or Pastor Gudgel if you are interested in helping in the final planning or procuring items.



Faith Ladies Aid

Yes, Spring has Sprung. Have you?

The ladies are looking for you to spring into the many activities offered through this organization. Come to our meeting Thursday, April 7th at 7:00 PM. We meet in the Parish Hall on the first Thursday of each month. Our dues are \$3.00 per year.

On May 5th at 7:00 PM we will have our meeting followed by a fun Bunco game.

Our last meeting for the season will be June 2nd at 6:30 PM. We will have a pizza party followed with a gift auction. Please bring a wrapped gift valued under \$10.00.

For further information please contact Gail Henson, Mary Slepski, or Kathleen Nowak.

Rummage & Bake Sale

Start gathering your unwanted items. Clothing, kitchen items, garage items, books are all accepted.

Items may be dropped off in the church basement from now until the night before the sale. Call the church office for times.

The Ladies will be setting up on Fri. April 15th from 9:00AM – 11 AM and again from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Bakery items can also be brought at this time.

Faith Seniors

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with delicious corned beef sandwiches and enjoyed a film about the wonderful parks of Ireland.

In April we will have a "regular" meeting and in May, we will celebrate everyone's birthday with a special cake and ice cream.

If you are a Senior, please join us.

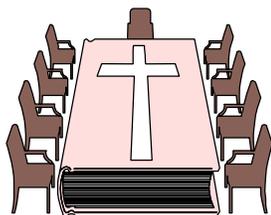
Grace Scott

Schedule of April 2005 / May 2005 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>April Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	8:30 AM	Worship / Communion
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
10	8:30 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	8:30 AM	Worship / Communion
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
24	8:30 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.

Weekly Meetings

AA Groups	M - 6:00 PM F- 7:00 PM Sat - 8:00 AM
Brownies	F - 3:30 PM
Girl Scouts	M - 3:30 PM
ALANON	Tu - 8:00 PM
Choir	W - 6:30 PM
Seniors	(Third) - Th. - 12:00 PM
Ladies Aid	(First) - Th. - 7:00 PM



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>May Event</u>
1	8:30 AM	Worship / Communion
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	8:30 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
15	8:30 AM	Worship / Communion
	9:45 AM	Sunday School Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.
21	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
22	8:30 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
		Adult Bible Class
	11:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
29	*9:00 AM	Adult Bible Class
	*10:00 AM	Worship / Communion Children's Msg.

* Note the time change for May 29th. This begins our summer schedule.

