

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

Dec. 2009/ Jan. 2010

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas is coming, and soon will be here. Are you ready? Or are there still gifts to buy, cookies to bake, parties to attend, decorating to do, cards to mail, and all the rest of the things that go into celebrating Christmas?

Chances are the Christmas season can seem a bit out of control. With so much going on, it's hard to keep track of everything. You just hold on tight and hope you make it to New Years when you can finally relax a bit.

Things must have seemed out of control for Mary and Joseph, too.

They were engaged and planning to get married and spend their life together. But out of the blue, an angel showed up and told them God had other plans. Through the Holy Spirit, Mary would be the mother of God. She would give birth to a Son who would be the Savior of the world. It was all out of their control.

So Joseph took Mary his wife, and they planned to raise their family in Nazareth. But then the census came and they had to make an unscheduled trip to Bethlehem. I'm sure they didn't plan to have a baby in a barn or shepherds as guests, either. Everything was out of their control.

In the midst of all the chaos and confusion, Mary's words ring through, "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said." She accepted the angel's words and went along with them. She trusted in the Lord.

The Lord had far greater plans for Mary and Joseph than they ever could have imagined. Their life was out of their control, and that was a good thing. It was in the Lord's hands, and He had a wonderful plan for them and their family.

The Advent and Christmas season is a reminder that things are out of our control. They're in the Lord's hands. Jesus came at His time, on His schedule, in His special way. And Jesus will return in His time, too.

When things seem a bit out of control, your natural reaction will be to pull back on the reins and regain control. Remember that in the midst of all the chaos and confusion, the Lord is still in control. His ways are not our ways, and He might have something in store for you much better than what you have planned.

You're never really in control, and that's a good thing.

Have a blessed, out of control Christmas!

**Pastor Mark Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Ladies Aid

The Ladies Aid is thankful for all the enthusiasm shown to us over the past year. The candy drive for the veterans brought in 125 pounds of food. Many letters of appreciation have been received. We plan on doing another drive next year.

The November Bazaar was our most successful event. We thank all of you who worked so hard and to the many who baked, made chili, donated white elephant items or raffle items. We also thank The Chicago Bulls, The Chicago Wolves, and Private Bank for their generous donation.

Most importantly, we thank all of you who attended and brought guests. Christian Fellowship is important in keeping Faith active.



We are extending an invitation to all of our Faith ladies to attend our Christmas Pot Luck Party on Thursday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>. at 6:30 PM.

Chicken will be provided so please call Anna O'Neal at 425-5647 so she has an accurate count. Plan on making a dish for the common table and we do have a grab bag. If you would like to participate bring a wrapped \$5.00 item.

There is no meeting in January.

To all of you we send our prayers to you and your families for a Blessed Christmas and a New Year of continued Faith.

Kathleen Nowak, Membership

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## Altar Guild

Once again, we will be holding our annual fundraiser. Our tree will be set up in the Narthex. Please sign a card and place it on the tree when making your donation.

There will be a sign up sheet for Poinsettias in the Narthex. Once again these will beautify our sanctuary during the Christmas Worship Services. The cost per poinsettia is \$12.00. You may take them home after the Christmas Day Worship Service.

Soon the new flower chart will be posted on the bulletin board. Please watch for its placement so you can sign up for the dates you want to purchase flowers.

## Christmas Caroling

Once again this year we will be spreading joy to several area nursing homes through song. We'll meet at church at 1:30 PM on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

We will visit Alex Diehl at the Bridgeview Health Care Center (81<sup>st</sup> and Harlem) and then visit Alma Risky at International Village (48<sup>th</sup> and Western).

For more information, contact Debbie Hochgesang or Pastor Birkholz.

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## Evening with Jesus

Mark your calendar for January 21<sup>st</sup>. This is the date for our children's night of Bible lessons. We begin at 6:00 PM and end around 7:30 PM.

We will hear Bible stories, make a craft, sing, have a snack and play some games.

Come join us and bring a friend as we learn about a new Bible character.

We will meet on the third Thursday each month.

So don't forget to mark your calendars! We'll see you there.



## Congregation Meeting / New Member Pot Luck Luncheon

Our next congregation meeting will be on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> following our worship service which will include installation of congregational officers.

Everyone is invited to our New Member Pot Luck Luncheon immediately following the meeting. Please plan on joining us for Christian Fellowship.

Also, bringing a dish for the common table will be greatly appreciated.

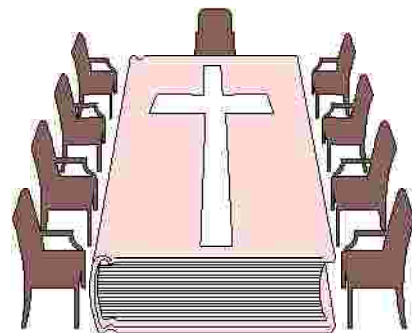
# Schedule of Dec. 2009/ Jan. 2010 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Dec. Event</u>
2	2:00 PM	Advent Worship
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
9	2:00 PM	Advent Worship
13	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
16	2:00 PM	Advent Worship
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
24	7:00 PM	<u>Christmas Eve</u> Worship / Communion
25	9:00 AM	<u>Christmas Day</u> Worship / Communion
27	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Jan. Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
10	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
24	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
31	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

## Weekly Meetings

Evening with Jesus	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs. 6:00 PM
Afternoon Worship	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. 1:00 PM
AA Groups	M & F - 6:00 PM
	Sat - 8:00 AM
Bible Study	Fri. - 10:30 AM
Girl Scouts	Tu - 3:30 PM F - 6:30 PM
ALANON	Tu - 7:00 PM
Ladies Aid	(First) - Th. - 7:00 PM
Adventure	(First) - Sun. - 7:00 PM



# Dec. / Jan. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

## Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- Dec. 6** Gene Osmanski  
Ed Neaves  
Nick Trojanowski  
Glen Werth
- Dec. 13** Richard Clark  
Ray Bennett  
Howard Johnson
- Dec. 20** Frank Oslakovic  
Bill Weems  
Nick Trojanowski  
Mark Trojanowski
- Dec. 27** Richard Clark  
Mary Slepski  
Gail Henson

## Advent Services 2:00 PM

- Dec. 2** Richard Clark  
Glen Werth
- Dec. 9** Ed Neaves  
Gene Osmanski
- Dec. 16** Frank Oslakovic  
Alden Ketchum

## Christmas Eve 7:00 PM

- Dec. 24** Bill Weems  
Ed Neaves  
Glen Werth  
Howard Johnson

## Christmas Day 9:00 AM

- Dec. 25** Frank Oslakovic  
Gene Osmanski  
Nick Trojanowski  
Richard Clark



## Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- Jan. 3** Gene Osmanski  
Alden Ketchum  
Howard Johnson  
Mark Trojanowski
- Jan. 10** Richard Clark  
A.J. Bray  
Franny Rheinwald
- Jan. 17** Ed Neaves  
Bill Weems  
Howard Johnson  
Nick Trojanowski
- Jan. 24** Frank Oslakovic  
Gail Henson  
Mary Slepski
- Jan. 31** Gene Osmanski  
Alden Ketchum  
Ray Bennett  
Tim Radosevich

## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

- Dec. 6** Gene Osmanski
- Dec. 13** Ray Bennett
- Dec. 20** Bill Weems
- Dec. 27** Ed Neaves

## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

- Jan. 3** Debbie Hochgesang
- Jan. 10** Ray Bennett
- Jan. 17** Bill Weems
- Jan. 24** Gene Osmanski
- Jan. 31** Nick Trojanowski

