

FAITH NEWSLETTER

Feb. / Mar. 2010



Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you ever been quarantined? Have you ever been so sick that you've had to warn people to stay away?

Although people are rarely quarantined in their homes these days, it's fairly common in hospitals. People who are highly infectious have warnings on their doors, and all those who treat or visit them need special protection- masks, gloves, etc... to keep from getting infected themselves.

The word "quarantine" comes from an Italian word meaning "40 Days." It was first used in the Middle Ages when ships arriving in port had to wait offshore for 40 days before unloading, just to be sure that no one onboard had the plague.

We are about to enter a 40 day quarantine ourselves - the season of Lent.

Lent reminds us that we are all sick and dying. We have all been infected with sin since birth, and sin will one day kill us. On Ash Wednesday this brutal fact smacks us on the forehead with the ashes and the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

When I get sick, I tend to deny it, ignore it, and avoid going to the doctor at all costs (it drives my wife crazy). It's the same way with our sin. It's much easier to deny it, ignore it, and avoid coming to confession at all costs rather than to acknowledge it.

When we ignore our sicknesses, we don't receive the healing we need. When we ignore our sinfulness, we don't receive the healing that we need.

Jesus Christ entered the quarantine of our world, and allowed himself to be infected with our sin. He bore our sin and our sicknesses in our place on the cross. He rose on Easter morning healed, alive, never to die again.

The quarantine of Lent ends at the Lord's Table. Here we receive the best medicine available, the medicine of immortality, the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus' body and blood have conquered death, and so when we receive these gifts, we receive His resurrection and immortality.

This Lent, don't ignore the quarantine. You're sick, whether you choose to admit it or not. Come faithfully to the divine service, make time for the midweek services, spend time in daily prayer and devotion, schedule a time for private confession and forgiveness. These are all ways for the Lord to get you the healing medicine, and bring us through the time of quarantine to the life and joy of Easter.

God's richest blessings,

Pastor Mark Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

The ladies are planning a busy spring. Our Rummage Sale is a big event that you can help us with.

To those of you that have the 'winter blahs' and have decided to clean closets and drawers, think of us and our April rummage sale. Please set aside any gently used clothes and houseware articles.

Also, to all who are creative, it is not too soon for you to think of hand made crafts for our bazaar.

We cordially invite all ladies of the congregation to join us on Thursday, Feb. 4th for our first meeting of 2010 and again on Mar. 4th for our next meeting. We meet at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Our dues are only \$3.00 per year.

Blessings of the New Year to all and a special "Hello" to our shut-ins Hertha Falhberg and Evelyn Luer.

Kathleen Nowak, Membership

LWML

A new year is here and LWML activities are starting again. Feb. 17th is the Lenten Breakfast at St. Paul Church. It starts at 9:00 AM.

March 13th is the "2010 Lenten Inspiration" at Zion Church in Beecher, IL. This event starts at 9:00 AM. The speaker is Pastor Douglas Severson. You will need to register for this event.

On April 10th, Faith LWML will host the spring LWML meeting. For more information on any of these events, contact Grace Scott or watch for information in the church bulletin.

Grace Scott

Evening with Jesus

We continue learning about Jesus and Bible stories through lessons, songs and crafts. Mark your calendar for Feb. 18th and Mar. 18th so you can join all the kids for a fun evening beginning at 6:00 PM and ending at 7:30 PM.

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

Lenten Midweek Services

Since ancient times, the season of Lent has been a time to prepare new Christians for Baptism and Lord's Supper. It is also a time to be renewed and to be refreshed on the basics of the Christian Faith. Our Lenten services this year will focus on these foundational texts. Following the service, there will be a time for refreshments and discussion.

For guests and friends of our congregation, these evenings will introduce them to what we believe and prepare them for membership.

For current members, this will be an opportunity to reflect on the catechism, which many of us learned by heart years ago. We never outgrow the catechism, but continue to learn from it all of our lives. As Martin Luther writes,

"Many regard the catechism as a simple, silly teaching which they can absorb and master at one reading. After reading it once they toss the book into a corner as if they are ashamed to read it again. . . . I must still read and study the catechism daily, yet I cannot master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and I do it gladly."

7:00p – 7:45p Service

7:45p – 8:00p Refreshments

8:00p – 8:30p Discussion

February 17 (Ash Wednesday) – Nature of God*

February 24 – Ten Commandments

March 3 – Creed

March 10 – Lord's Prayer

March 17 – Baptism

March 24 – Confession & Office of the Keys

April 1 (Maundy Thursday) – Lord's Supper*

*Since the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on these days, there will not be refreshments between the service and discussion.

Schedule of Feb. / Mar. 2010 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Feb. Event</u>
6	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
7	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
14	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
17	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday Worship / Communion
20	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
21	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
24	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
28	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg. Adult Bible Class

Valentine's Day Social

Since Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday this year, the Fellowship Committee has planned a special program immediately following the service on February 14 to give thanks to God for His gifts of love and marriage. There will be refreshments, games, and prizes. Special activities for the children of the congregation will be available in the Parish Hall. Please bring a dessert to share. Those who have been married are also asked to bring a wedding picture.

Nursing Home Services:

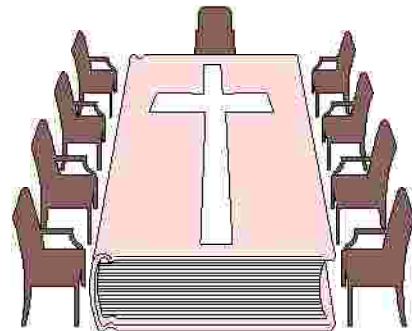
Pastor Birkholz regularly leads services at Brighton Garden of Burr Ridge, where Betty Baker resides, and Tinley Court, home of Hertha Fahlberg. You are invited to come along for the service and spend a few minutes visiting with the residents. If you need a ride, please contact pastor in advance. Here is the schedule for February and March:

February 17	Brighton Gardens	10:30 AM
	Tinley Court	3:30 PM
March 3	Brighton Gardens	10:30 AM
March 17	Brighton Gardens	10:30 AM
March 24	Tinley Court	3:30 PM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Mar. Event</u>
3	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
6	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
7	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
10	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
14	9:00 AM	Worship / Children's Msg.
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
17	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
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	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

Evening with Jesus	3rd Thurs. 6:00 PM
Afternoon Worship	2nd 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



Feb. / Mar. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 7 Frank Oslakovic
Bill Weems
Nick Trojanowski
Glen Werth

Feb. 14 Richard Clark
Ray Bennett
Howard Johnson

Feb. 21 Ed Neaves
Alden Ketchum
Nick Trojanowski
Mark Trojanowski

Feb. 28 Richard Clark
Mary Slepki
Gail Henson

Lenten Services 7:00 PM

Feb. 17 Frank Oslakovic
Ed Neaves
Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth

Feb. 24 Alden Ketchum
Howard Johnson

Mar. 3 Richard Clark
Bill Weems

Mar. 10 Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett

Mar. 17 Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth

Mar. 24 Frank Oslakovic
Richard Clark

Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Mar. 7 Gene Osmanski
Bill Weems
Ray Bennett
Tim Radosevich

Mar. 14 Richard Clark
Glenn Werth
Franny Rheinwald

Mar. 21 Ed Neaves
Frank Oslakovic
Gail Henson
Mary Slepki

Mar. 28 Alden Ketchum
Howard Johnson
A.J.Bray

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Feb. 7 Gene Osmanski

Feb. 14 Ray Bennett

Feb. 21 Mark Trojanowski

Feb. 28 Debbie Hochgesang

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Mar. 7 Bill Weems

Mar. 14 Nick Trojanowski

Mar. 21 Ed Neaves

Mar. 28 Gene Osmanski

