

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

August / September 2010

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to write to you about the church. Not our congregation specifically, but the church.



We are a small, close-knit community. That's a good thing, as we can get to know one another easily, and care for each other in times of need. Unfortunately, there is a tendency to be isolated from other members of the body of Christ in other congregations. We also can fall prey to the temptation to view other congregations as rivals or competition for new members.

The church, of course, is much more than just our congregation. In the coming year we will be working much more closely with other congregations in the area in several different ways.

First, you will have an opportunity to join with them in the Divine Service, as we come together to hear God's Word, receive His body and blood, sing, pray and give thanks. There will be three joint services held in the coming year:

St. Michael and All Angels (Wednesday, September 29) at Gloria Dei, Chicago

Epiphany (Tuesday, January 6) here at Faith

Ascension (Thursday, June 2) at Grace, Willow Springs

Each service will begin at 7:00p with a potluck dinner at 6:00pm.

For more information see page 2.

Second, we will be working together to provide programs for our youth. Since many congregations in the area have only a few young people involved, we will be planning joint activities and events to bring everyone together. The first event will be a lock-in at Zion, Lyons. For more information see page 2.

Third, we will be praying specifically for the congregations in our area every week in the Divine Service, beginning in August.

Finally, we will be looking for ways to work together to reach out to those in need. Two area congregations, Zion, Oak Lawn and Mount Greenwood, both contribute to our food pantry. Last winter several members of our congregations joined together to work in the Gulf region repairing homes damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Look for more information on additional service projects in the weeks to come.

This is what it means to be the church: to come together in the Divine Service, to pray for one another, to teach and prepare the next generation of Christians, and to reach out in service to our neighbor. We don't need to do these things alone. In fact, it works much better when we work together as the body of Christ, with Jesus as our head.

We have some exciting things to look forward to in the coming year, and I hope that you'll join us.

God's Blessings,

**Pastor Mark Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Ladies Aid

Yes, it has been a hot summer, but we hope our ladies are enjoying it and resting up for the start of another busy fall.

Our June pizza / bunco party was fun for all. We honored Grace Scott for her faithful service to the Ladies Aid and Women's Missionary League. We wish her God's blessings as she starts on a new venture in her life.

Also, a big thank you to Hertha Fahlberg who was our energetic "Sunshine Lady". For many years Hertha made sure that everyone in need of hearing from a friend received a card that included her wonderful, sensitive and appropriate writings.

We hope to see you at our September meeting. Because of Labor Day we will meet on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

Membership Chairman Kathleen Nowak

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## Evening with Jesus

Calling all kids ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade!

Are you ready for our Thursday night fun?

Once again we will be meeting on the third Thursday each month to learn about Jesus, the Bible, make a craft, sing some songs and play some games.

Come join us on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM in the Parish Hall.

Bring a friend! We like a crowd.

For our first meeting, parents are invited to come for a special meeting from 7:00 – 7:30p to discuss our children's ministry here at Faith.

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## VBS Fun



## Fall on the Green

Faith has requested a spot once again this year for Oak Lawn's Fall on the Green. This year's festival will be on Sept 10-12. Space is limited, and we have not yet been informed if we will have a spot this year. If we are granted a space, we will need lots of help from volunteers to staff our tent. Please watch for more information in the weeks to come.

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## School Supplies

The state of Illinois is suspending the sales tax on all school supplies purchased between August 6<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Parents and Grandparents this is a good time to get your child / grandchild ready for the beginning of a new school year.

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## Mass Lock - In

All Junior and Senior High youth are invited to a mass lock-in at Zion Lutheran Church in Lyons Illinois, from 4:00p on Friday, August 20, through 9:00a on Saturday, August 21. The lock-in will include a service project, the Divine Service, pizza, games and maybe sleep. The total cost is \$10 per child. For more information, contact Pastor Birkholz.

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## St. Michael and All Angels:

You are invited to join with fellow members of area Lutheran churches to give thanks to God for the ministry of His holy angels. The service on Wednesday September 29<sup>th</sup> will be held at:

### **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church**

5259 S Major Ave  
Chicago, IL

Potluck Dinner at 6:00p

Divine Service at 7:00p

Preacher: The Rev. Steve Riordan, Grace,  
Western Springs

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Steven Anderson,  
Gloria Dei

Mass Choir Director: Mr. Jonathan Swett, St.  
Paul, Oak Lawn.

# Schedule of August / September 2010 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>August Event</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Food Pantry Distribution</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Children's Msg.</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Parish Hall Divine Service</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Elders Meeting</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Food Pantry Distribution</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Children's Msg.</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>

## Weekly Meetings

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

## VBS Fun



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>September Event</u>
<b>4</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Food Pantry Distribution</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Elders Meeting</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Children's Msg.</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Congregation Meeting</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>	<b>Parish Hall Divine Service</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Food Pantry Distribution</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship / Children's Msg.</b>
	<b>10:15 AM</b>	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>

## Senior Worship Services

<b>Brighton Gardens:</b>	<b>August 4 &amp; 18</b>
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>September 1 &amp; 15</b>
<b>Tinley Court:</b>	<b>September 1</b>
<b>3:30 PM</b>	

## New Bible Class: The Good News from Matthew

Our current Bible Class on the Church will be wrapping up in August.

Please join us for a new Bible Class beginning in September that will read through the Gospel according to Matthew. When our new church year starts this Advent, our gospel lessons will come from Matthew, so this is a great way to prepare for the coming year.

## Congregation Meeting

Please plan to attend the congregation meeting on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> immediately after the 9:00 AM worship service.

We will meet in the basement to discuss our 2011 budget and also take nominations for 2011 officers. Your input is very much needed as we discuss the future year at Faith.

# Aug. / Sept. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

## Aug. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**Aug. 1** Bill Weems  
Alden Ketchum  
Nick Trojanowski  
Mark Trojanowski

**Aug. 8** Frank Oslakovic  
Glenn Werth  
Ray Bennett

**Aug. 15** Ed Neaves  
Gene Osmanski  
Mary Slepki  
Gail Henson

**Aug. 22** Richard Clark  
A.J. Bray  
Howard Johnson

**Aug. 29** Bill Weems  
Alden Ketchum  
Ray Bennett  
Glenn Werth

## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

**Aug. 1** Nick Trojanowski

**Aug. 8** Ray Bennett

**Aug. 15** Jim Kramer

**Aug. 22** Gene Osmanski

**Aug. 29** Bill Weems

## VBS Fun



## Sept. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**Sept. 5** Ed Neaves  
Frank Oslakovic  
Mark Trojanowski  
Nick Trojanowski

**Sept. 12** Gene Osmanski  
Howard Johnson  
A.J. Bray

**Sept. 19** Richard Clark  
Glenn Werth  
Mary Slepki  
Gail Henson

**Sept. 26** Bill Weems  
Alden Ketchum  
Howard Johnson

## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

**Sept. 5** Ed Neaves

**Sept. 12** Mark Trojanowski

**Sept. 19** Debbi Hochgesang

**Sept. 26** Ray Bennett

## Summer Vacation:

Are you going out of town this summer? If so, here are some things to remember:

- If you'll be missing several weeks, please let Pastor Birkholz or one of the elders know, so that we don't get concerned about your absence.
- Find a congregation to visit (if you need help finding one, contact the church office).
- When you visit another congregation, introduce yourself to the pastor before the service, especially if it's a communion Sunday.
- Tell us about your experience when you return.
- Don't forget to continue to support Faith financially, and continue to give generously over the summer months.

