

FAITH NEWSLETTER

August / September 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

¹*Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.*

²*Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

³*For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.*

⁴*For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.*

⁵*I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;*

*I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:1-5)*



I'm not a big fan of summer. Summer is draining and exhausting. I love the fall, and spring is nice, too. I even enjoy winter (as long as I don't have to drive in the snow). But I don't like summer. I don't like the heat. When you're cold you can always put on another layer, find something warm to drink, or find another way to warm up. When you're warm, it's much more difficult to cool off. The heat and the humidity can almost feel suffocating.

This is the way that David felt in this psalm. When he didn't confess his sins, he says, "My strength was dried up as by the heat of summer." When we try to cover up our sins and keep them away from the Lord, that's how we feel, too.

We draw all of our spiritual strength from the Lord. Our faith and trust in Him, the ability to make it through difficult times, our daily peace and joy are all gifts from the Lord. We receive these gifts from Him through the Holy Spirit. When we sin, we tend to avoid the Lord. We dread praying to Him, going to church, and listening to His word. We know that we've failed Him and disappointed Him, and so, like Adam and Eve, we hide. We're afraid of how the Lord will react to our sinfulness. We can't imagine He could ever love someone who makes the number and kind of mistakes that we do.

What great joy to know that the Lord will always forgive us when we confess our sins. He doesn't scream and yell at us. He doesn't scold us and punish us. Jesus Christ has already borne the punishment for your sins. No, as soon as we confess our sins, the Lord forgives us. It's that simple. It's never as bad as you think it's going to be.

Would you like to receive forgiveness? Would you like to hear the Lord's words of forgiveness spoken directly to you? The Lord gives us pastors to hear our confessions and forgive our sins on His behalf. When your pastor speaks the words of forgiveness, you are hearing the voice of the Lord Himself.

When you sin, don't wait, don't avoid God, don't waste away in your guilt. It would be like sitting out in the sun on a hot summer day. Instead, find a pastor to speak God's word of forgiveness to you. He has promised never to repeat anything you might say to him in confession. This has been a hot summer. Don't suffer from guilt and worry because of your sin. Confess your sins, and receive God's free gift of forgiveness today!

God's Blessings,

Pastor Mark Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

We start the fall season on Sept. 6th at 6:30 PM. All ladies are invited to join us as we plan our many events for 2012/2013. We need your input and your help for us to continue to serve Faith Church as we have in the past.

Membership Chairman Kathleen Nowak

Evening with Jesus

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 20th from 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 – 7:30 PM to discuss our children's ministry here at Faith.

Memorial Service

A Special Memorial Service in memory of Mary Lee Becker will be held at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday, August 19 at 2:00 PM. You are invited to visit with the family before the service and to stay afterwards for light refreshments, if you are able. Even if you did not know Mary, please come to hear God's Word of comfort and hymn and sing praise to Him for conquering death and giving us the gift of everlasting life.

Ladies Breakfast

All Ladies of the congregation are invited to a monthly breakfast, on the second Saturday of each month. The first gathering will be at Jedi's Restaurant on the corner of Southwest Highway and Cicero Avenue at 9:00 AM on September 8. Please bring \$10 to cover the cost of the meal. Join us for a time of fellowship and good food (cooked by someone else)!

Fall Picnic

Save the date! Our fall "homecoming" picnic will be on Sunday, September 16. The exact time and place are still to be determined, but mark your calendars today for a fun time!

Special Project Update

The work in the parsonage basement is nearing its conclusion. Recent projects include installing the flooring, replacing the windows and finishing the trim. A small amount of work still remains to be done in the bathroom and kitchen areas, as well as some minor touch-ups. Big thanks to Charlie Henson, Howard Johnson, and Mike Kampenga for all their hard work, and to everyone who donated to help make this possible. Donations are still being accepted for this project. Any amount received in excess of our needs will be placed in the general fund.

Sabbatical

Pastor Birkholz's second Sabbatical time will run from Monday, July 30 through Sunday, August 26. During this time, Pastor Dan Gensch will again be covering all of Pastor Birkholz's responsibilities. If you need to reach Pastor Gensch, you may call him at (708) 430-0633. You may also contact an elder to assist you. In case of emergency, please do not leave a message on the church answering machine, but continue calling until you speak with someone.

Fall Clean-up Day

Our next clean-up day will be on Saturday, September 29, beginning at 9:00 AM. The main projects will be sealing cracks in the parking lot and trimming the shrubs. Please watch for more information as the date approaches.

Congregation Meeting

The next congregational voters' meeting will be held on Sunday, September 16 at 10:15 AM. The proposed agenda and the minutes from our last meeting will be available on September 9. If you have any items you would like to add to the agenda, please speak with Ed Neaves prior to the meeting.

VBS

We had another wonderful VBS with over 28 children attending. We thank God for sending us the children, teachers, and helpers. We collected \$262 for water purification filters for those in need. Plan on joining us next year, I guarantee you will laugh a lot and sleep well at night after being with these wonderful, energetic children.

Enjoy the Pictures!

Schedule of August / September 2012 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>August Event</u>
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
9	7:00 PM	Elders' Meeting
12	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
25	12:00 – 5:00 PM	Barnabas Christian Assembly Bible Bee
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
29	7:00 PM	Stewardship Meeting

Weekly Meetings

Bible Study	Fri. – 10:30 AM
Confirmation Class	Thurs.-3:30
Evening with Jesus	3rd Thurs. 6:00 PM
AA Groups	M & F - 6:00 PM
	Sat - 8:00 AM
Adventure	1 st Sun.-7:00 PM
ALANON	Tu - 7:30 PM
Ladies Aid	(First) - Th. – 6:30 PM
Barnabas Christian Assembly	Sun. –12:00 PM

Hymns of the Month

August: “All For Christ I Have Forsaken” (# 753)

Calvin Chao organized Christian Fellowship meetings in Chinese universities during the 1940s and 50s. This work was increasingly difficult under the communist government, and he eventually fled to America out of concern for the safety of his wife and children (see verse 4). Here in the states he worked tirelessly among Chinese immigrants, eventually establishing a seminary in California. He wrote this hymn, which describes our struggle to live as Christians in modern society. The hymn was originally written in Chinese, translated by a Lutheran pastor in Hawaii, and later revised by Stephen Starke, a Lutheran pastor and hymn writer in Michigan. The tune is from the original Chinese version.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>September Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
2	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
5	7:00 PM	Confirmation Parent's Mtg.
9	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
13	7:00 PM	Elders' Meeting
15	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
16	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Congregation Meeting
23	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
30	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Hymns of the Month

September: “Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” (# 819)

This 17th Century German hymn confesses many things that God has done for us. The first verse focuses on God who created and redeemed us. In the second verse we hear how he continues to watch over his creation. Jesus continues to answer our prayers (verse 3) and will be with us through every generation (verse 4). It concludes with a call for all God's people to praise Him. The tune is borrowed from an older hymn and features a rhythm common to 16th century popular German folk tunes. One author calls the music “forceful, swinging, invigorating.”

Aug. / Sept. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Aug. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- Aug. 5** Alden Ketchum
Gene Osmanski
Glen Werth
Howard Johnson
- Aug. 12** Frank Oslakovic
Richard Clark
Nick Trojanowski
Mark Trojanowski
- Aug. 19** Bob Green
Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett
A.J. Bray
- Aug. 26** Alden Ketchum
Bill Weems
Richard Clark
Howard Johnson

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

- Aug. 5** Ed Neaves
- Aug. 12** Mark Trojanowski
- Aug. 19** Katie Kampenga
- Aug. 26** Debbi Hochgesang

VBS Fun



Sept. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- Sept. 2** Ed Neaves
Bob Green
Mary Slepski
Ray Bennett
- Sept. 9** Richard Clark
Alden Ketchum
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski
- Sept. 16** Frank Oslakovic
Gene Osmanski
Howard Johnson
Glen Werth
- Sept. 23** Bill Weems
Richard Clark
Ray Bennett
A.J. Bray
- Sept. 30** Ed Neaves
Bob Green
Howard Johnson
Glen Werth

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

- Sept. 2** Ray Bennett
- Sept. 9** Nick Trojanowski
- Sept. 16** Gene Osmanski
- Sept. 23** Bill Weems
- Sept. 30** Ed Neaves

VBS Fun

