

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

Oct. / Nov. 2012

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Dear Friends in Christ,

A few weeks ago I heard an interview on the radio with one of the administrators of Chicago's Urban Prep Academies. These are three charter schools in some of the roughest neighborhoods in Chicago. They are all male, mostly African American schools, and nearly all of their graduates go on to attend college.

When asked about the reasons for their success, the interviewee noted some things you might expect, like parental involvement and the commitment of teachers, but also some more surprising elements, including formalities. The students all wear jackets and ties. They are addressed by their last names. Finally, he mentioned "ceremony" and "ritual" as important to the educational process.

The educators at the Urban Prep Academies have found that adding formality, ceremony, and ritual to their schools have helped their students take their learning more seriously. It's not the only component, of course, but they help to create a more focused atmosphere in which to learn, and for the students to take their education more seriously.

The church has always treasured ceremonies and rituals, particularly those given to us by God Himself. The Old Testament is full of temple rituals and ceremonies given by God so that His people could interact with Him safely. All of these rituals: the sacrifices, the actions and vestments of the priests, even the architecture of the temple pointed forward to Jesus Christ. In the New Testament we are given new rituals and ceremonies, such as Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. If you read the book of Revelation, it's full of rituals and ceremonies: candles, robes, incense, bowing, singing. That's what heaven will be like.

The church has also added ceremonies and rituals not specifically given by God, but that point to Jesus Christ and remind us that when we're in church, we are in the very presence of God Himself. Some Christians have promoted a less formal, a more casual, "come as you are", approach to worship. Yet the Lutheran Reformers kept many of the ceremonies in use during their time, "We on our part also retain many ceremonies and traditions (such as the liturgy of the Mass and various canticles, festivals, and the like) which serve to preserve order in the church. At the same time, we warn people that such observances do not justify us before God." (Augsburg Confession 24:40-41)

Rituals and ceremonies certainly do not make us right with God, but they often have a useful purpose in helping us focus our attention on Jesus, and to create an orderly atmosphere for worship. They help us to realize that in the Divine Service we are in the presence of God Almighty, an awesome and wonderful experience, indeed. If you ever have questions about the history and reasoning behind any of the ceremonies we use at Faith, don't be afraid to ask!

God's Blessings,  
**Pastor Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Ladies Aid

Yes, the fall season is upon us and the ladies are busy planning the Fall/Christmas Bazaar. We will be changing a few things.

The date will be Saturday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The time is 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

There will be an all day Lunch.

Chili and hot dogs will be served for \$4.00.

***Please note there will not be a dinner.***

We will have our bake sale, white elephant, crafts and our popular raffle.

You can help with donations to any of these things. For more information call Anna O'Neal @708-425-5647.

Please come and join for a day of fellowship and friendship.

Coming up is Our Ladies Aid meetings October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM and November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM.

Kathleen Nowak

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## Sabbatical

The final period for Pastor Birkholz's Sabbatical will be from October 22 through November 18. He hopes to have a draft of his dissertation completed by the end of this time. Once again, Pastor Gensch will be filling in. You may contact him at (708) 430-0633 in case of emergency, or get in touch with an elder.

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## Thanksgiving

This year's Thanksgiving Service will be on Wednesday, November 21 at 7:00 PM. Come and give thanks to our Lord for all His blessings.

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## Fall Mission Offering - St. Paul School

This year we will again be supporting St. Paul Lutheran School in Oak Lawn for our Fall mission. We will be taking a special door collection on Sunday, October 21. The youth choir from St. Paul will also be here on the 21<sup>st</sup> to add their songs to our service. If you are unable to attend on October 21, you may make a donation for St. Paul School at any time.

## All Saints' Day

On November 1, the church gives thanks to God for all His saints. A "saint" is someone God makes holy through Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, Holy Gospel and Holy Supper. Saints aren't holy because they do good things, but because of what God does for them. This year you will have two opportunities to celebrate All Saints' Day.

The first is a joint service with the other churches in our circuit on Thursday, November 1 at 7:00p at St. Paul, Oak Lawn. This will be a festival Divine Service followed by a reception with coffee and desserts.

The second opportunity will be at Faith's regular 9:00 AM service on Sunday, November 4. At this service we will commemorate the saints who have departed as members of our congregation in the past year:

Mary Becker  
Arlene Goll  
Alma Rissky  
Barbara Tebo  
Lillian Wisniewski

We will also thank God for the saints that He has added to our number through Holy Baptism. This year we will give thanks for the baptism of Grace Tyrrell.

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## Smiles for Sarah

As many of you have heard by now, our good friend Sarah McElheny has been hospitalized after contracting the West Nile virus. Sarah has attended VBS for the past three years and lives a few blocks from church.

In the past few weeks, members of Faith have helped the McElheny family in many ways. Thus far \$420 has been received to help with medical expenses. We have also provided meals for her family.

A benefit will be held on Sunday, October 14 from 2:00 – 7:00 PM at 115 Bourbon Street in Merrionette Park. Advance tickets are available at church for \$30. Donations of baked goods and items for the raffle will also be appreciated.

For more information on how to help, visit [www.smilesforsarah.com](http://www.smilesforsarah.com).

# Schedule of Oct. 2012 / Nov. 2012 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>October 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 / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
20	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
21	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
28	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

## Weekly Meetings

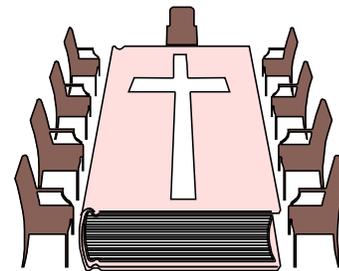
Bible Study	Fri. - 11:00 AM
Confirmation Class	Thurs. - 3:30 PM
Evening w/Jesus	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs. - 6:00 PM
Family Night	1 <sup>st</sup> Fri. - 6:00 PM
AA Groups	Mon. & Fri. - 6:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
Adventure	1 <sup>st</sup> Sun. - 7:00 PM
ALANON	Tue. - 7:30 PM
Barnabas Christian Assembly	Sun. - 12:00 PM

## October Hymn of the Month

**“If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee”  
(# 750)**

Georg Neumark could sympathize with many young people today. He graduated from university, but struggled to find employment. He was even attacked and robbed of all his possessions. When he finally found work as a tutor in the home of a judge, he wrote this hymn of trust and confidence in God. The hymn speaks of waiting patiently for God to hear your prayers, trusting that He will never forsake you.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>November Event</u>
3	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
4	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
11	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
17	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
18	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
21	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Worship / Communion
25	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class



## November Hymn of the Month

**“O God, Forsake Me Not”**

Salomo Franck was a court poet in Weimar, Germany and wrote many of the texts set to music by Johann Sebastian Bach. He lived a life of privilege, but lost many close family members tragically throughout his life. His hymns profess a strong faith in the presence of God, even in the midst of suffering and death. This hymn is based on Psalm 38:21-22, “Do not forsake me, O Lord! O my God, be not far from me! Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation!”

# Oct. / Nov. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

## Oct. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- Oct. 7** Alden Ketchum  
Gene Osmanski  
Glen Werth  
Howard Johnson
- Oct. 14** Frank Oslakovic  
Richard Clark  
Nick Trojanowski  
Mark Trojanowski
- Oct. 21** Bob Green  
Ed Neaves  
A.J. Bray  
Ray Bennett
- Oct. 28** Alden Ketchum  
Bill Weems  
Richard Clark  
Howard Johnson

## Dear Friends at Faith Church

We would like to express our gratitude to Faith Lutheran Church and all the wonderful people who donated time, talents and money to work on the basement project at the parsonage. We feel so blessed to know our dearest daughter and son in law have been called to a church that is so willing to be of assistance to them, love them, pray for them and help make their extended families more comfortable when we visit.

The family room/in law suite is such a blessing for us. We wanted to take a moment to share our deepest thanks for all the hard work and dedication it took to bring this project about.

We are grateful and ever mindful of God's providence in Pastor's call to your congregation. We thank you for praying for them, loving them and looking after our dear little grandchildren.

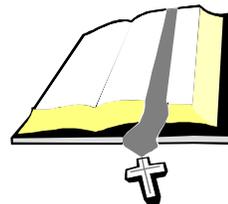
You all are never far from our thoughts and prayers. Please accept our heartfelt thanks for ALL you have done and continue to do to assist our family in carrying on the ministry of God's work at Faith Lutheran. We look forward to spending the upcoming holiday season with you all.

God's richest blessings to you,

Steven and Terilynn Klement

## Nov. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- Nov. 4** Ed Neaves  
Bob Green  
Mary Slepiski  
Ray Bennett
- Nov. 11** Alden Ketchum  
Richard Clark  
Mark Trojanowski  
Nick Trojanowski
- Nov. 18** Gene Osmanski  
Frank Oslakovic  
Howard Johnson  
Glen Werth
- Nov. 21** Thanksgiving Eve  
Ed Neaves  
Glen Werth  
Richard Clark  
Howard Johnson
- Nov. 25** Bill Weems  
Richard Clark  
A.J. Bray  
Ray Bennett



## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

- Oct. 7** Ed Neaves
- Oct. 14** Mark Trojanowski
- Oct. 21** Katie Kampenga
- Oct. 28** Debbie Hochgesang
- Nov. 4** Ray Bennett
- Nov. 11** Nick Trojanowski
- Nov. 18** Gene Osmanski
- Nov. 25** Bill Weems