

FAITH NEWSLETTER

August / September 2013



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It seems hard to believe that summer is already winding down, but this newsletter brings us through August and into September. When September rolls around, lots of activities and groups will start back up again. This fall we're trying something new. For the past several years we've had a Fall Fellowship event, including hayrides, bonfires, and barbeques. This fall we're planning something bigger for the whole community, and we need your help.

Our Lord has called you to be witnesses to what He has done for you. This often happens when someone you know - a friend, relative, or coworker - asks you a question and Jesus opens a door to talk about Him. You should always be ready to give a reason for the hope you have in Jesus Christ to those who ask. But there are also people around you that you may not meet as you go about your everyday life, and it's important for them to hear the Good News, too.

On September 21 we are planning a Fall Fest not just for our congregation, but also for your friends and neighbors, and for the community as a whole. This event will be for everyone- older, younger, and in-between. The goal is to bring everyone here to hear about Jesus and experience what life is like here at Faith as we live out our common faith together.

At the center of the event will be a prayer service. Hearing God's Word and calling upon Him in prayer is the whole reason why Faith exists, and we want this to be clear to all those who come. We will also give our guests an opportunity to contribute to our Food Pantry, which will be particularly helpful as demand increases in the fall and winter. Finally, there will be plenty of fun and games for all ages, as we enjoy the fellowship of being the body of Christ.

It's no secret that's we're a small congregation with limited resources. To make an event like this happen, we're going to need everyone's assistance. This may mean rearranging your work schedule or changing other plans so that you can help out on September 21. Start thinking about friends and neighbors you can invite, particularly those who aren't currently attending a church. There's more information in this newsletter on the ways that you can help, and watch for announcements and sign-up sheets at church as the date draws near.

Many members of our congregation have been working on this project for several weeks now, and will continue to do so throughout the weeks ahead. It's been a joy to work with them, and I'm excited about how this event is shaping up. If you'd like to help with the planning, our next meeting will be on Sunday, August 11 at 7:00p.

We hope and pray that this event goes well and it brings many new faces to our congregation, but there is no guarantee, there is no sure-fire way to get people to come to faith. Faith is gift given by the Holy Spirit, and people can always say, "No, thank you" to this gift. But doing nothing is not an option, either. The first two words of our mission statement are "Reaching out" and this is just one thing we will be doing to reach out this fall.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

With summer coming to an end, the ladies will be planning our events for the coming year.

Thursday, Sept 5th at 6:30 will be our meeting. Please plan on attending. We will learn about all the exciting things happening with the Ladies Aid.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

VBS

We experienced a wonderful week. We were blessed with 34 children in attendance all eager to learn about Jesus. The children had fun learning, playing, singing and doing crafts. We also were fortunate to donate \$278 to Lutheran Charities for their Disaster Response Fund.

I would like to thank everyone involved with making VBS a success for so many years. As some of you already know I am stepping down as director. Next year it will be in the capable hands of Amberleigh Birkholz.

I have been blessed to do God's work with children so they come to know Jesus as their friend and guide. I thank everyone at Faith Church for giving me this opportunity, I thank the many parents who entrusted their children to us and I thank God for giving me the tools to work with these precious, eager, bundles of energy.

Yours in Christ,
Celeste Oslakovic

Evening with Jesus

Please plan on bringing your children to a fun evening where they will learn about the wonderful things Jesus has done for them. Our first meeting will be **September 19th at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Hall. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for stories, crafts and a fun time learning. Children ages 3 through 6th grade are welcome.

Home Visits

It has been my privilege, by God's grace, to serve as your pastor for five years now. Shortly after I was installed, I visited with as many families of the congregation as possible as a way to get to know and give you an opportunity to get to know me. Much has changed in five years. Some members have joined while others have moved on. I have kept in close touch with some of you, but others I have not been as diligent in contacting, and I apologize.

Over the course of the coming year, I will be contacting all the members of our congregation to schedule a visit. If you are not comfortable meeting in your home, we can arrange to meet somewhere else. The goal of these meetings is two-fold. First of all, I will come to listen and learn more about you and how I can better care for you as your pastor. You are often in my prayers, and I want to be able to best pray for you and to know your needs as I prepare sermons and Bible Class materials for you, and as I work with the leadership of the congregation to plan for the future. Second of all, I will use this opportunity to speak God's Word to you, to pray for you, to encourage and to bless you, according to my call as your pastor.

Although we have a smaller congregation, it will still take me some time to contact everyone. It could be several months until you hear from me to schedule a visit. If there is something urgent that you would like to discuss, I am always willing to meet with you to chat.

Thanks,
Pastor Birkholz

Schedule August / September 2013 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Aug. 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
25	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

Bible Study Fri. - 10:00 AM
Confirmation Class Tues. - 3:30 PM
Evening w/Jesus 3rd Thurs. - 6:00 PM
AA Groups Mon., Wed. & Fri. - 6:00 PM
Sat. - 8:00 AM
ALANON Tue. - 7:30 PM
Barnabas Christian Assembly Sun. - 12:00 PM

St. Michael and All Angels

September 29 is the date the church gives thanks to God for His Holy Angels as they watch over us. This year September 29 falls on a Sunday, and so we will have a special Festival Divine Service on this day. Please plan to join us and all the company of heaven in praising God's glorious name.

Missionary Support

On July 11 we heard a presentation from the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Mumme on his service as a missionary at Westfield House in Cambridge, England. This school serves to train future leaders for the church from around the world. On Sunday, August 4, we will take a door offering following the service to support the work of Westfield house. For more information, brochures are available on the information table, or you can visit their website: www.westfieldhouse.org.uk.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sept. Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
15	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
21	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
22	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
29	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

Fall Fest & Food Drive

As you read on page 1, Faith will be hosting a special outreach event on Saturday, Sept 21, from 12:00p-5:00p. We will have a prayer service with our most treasured hymns of faith as well as a collection of food for the Food Pantry. There will be plenty of games for young and old, including BINGO, a bags tournament, inflatables, a cake walk, and craft activities. We will be serving a meal to our guests, and we are hoping to be able to provide all this to them at no cost to them.

Please consider supporting the event in one or more of the following ways:

- Volunteer your time- This is our greatest need, as we will be looking for people to help set-up, serve and clean-up for the event.
- Donate needed items- We will be looking for donations of food and drinks, prizes for games, craft supplies, and other items. Watch for lists and sign-up sheets in the church narthex in coming weeks.
- Pray- Please pray that God would lead individuals to come to the event and open their hearts to hear his word. Pray also for our leaders and all those serving at the event.

Aug. / Sept. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

August Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Aug. 4 Alden Ketchum
Ed Neaves
Ray Bennett
Howard Johnson

Aug. 11 Richard Clark
Frank Oslakovic
Katie Kampenga
Mike Kampenga

Aug. 18 Ed Neaves
Bob Green
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

Aug. 25 Alden Ketchum
Gene Osmanski
Mary Slepski
Howard Johnson

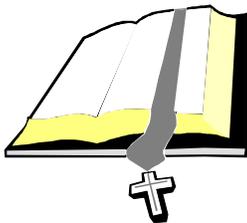
Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Aug. 4 Ray Bennett

Aug. 11 Katie Kampenga

Aug. 18 Mark Trojanowski

Aug. 25 Debbie Hochgesang



Summer Choir

Our choir continues to rehearse through the summer. Rehearsals are Fridays at 7:00 PM and are open to all. If interested contact Debbie Hockgesang.

Fall on the Green

Faith has applied for a booth at Fall on the Green again this year. If our application is successful, we will need volunteers to work at the booth from 11:00a – 6:00p on Saturday, Sept 7 and Sunday, Sept 8. This is a wonderful opportunity to tell people about Jesus and our congregation.

September Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Sept. 1 Richard Clark
Bob Green
A.J. Bray
Ray Bennett

Sept. 8 Gene Osmanski
Frank Oslakovic
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

Sept. 15 Alden Ketchum
Ed Neaves
Mike Kampenga
Katie Kampenga

Sept. 22 Richard Clark
Bob Green
Mark Trojanowski
Nick Trojanowski

Sept. 29 Gene Osmanski
Frank Oslakovic
Mary Slepski
Howard Johnson

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Sept. 1 Ray Bennett

Sept. 8 Nick Trojanowski

Sept. 15 Mike Kampenga

Sept. 22 Gene Osmanski

Sept. 29 Ray Bennett

VBS Fun

