

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

August 2014 / September 2014

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week, I had a unique experience. I prayed the Commendation for the Dying with two families on the same day, actually within the course of a few hours. Neither of those who were dying were members of our congregation; I was on call for another area pastor who was on vacation and they were both from his church.

Both families had waited until their loved one was near death before calling for a pastor. They saw pastoral care mainly as a last resort, something that they only needed once the medical treatments had failed.

On the one hand, there's something to be said for the attitude that in the face of death, the only true comfort can be found in God's Word. On the other hand, it would have been more helpful if they had called sooner so that both the family and their loved ones could have had the comfort and strength from God's Word before they reached the point of death.

You may wonder when you should call for pastoral care. Although members of our congregation usually contact a pastor for emergencies, it's not unusual for me to hear that someone had been in the hospital or undergone major surgery after the fact.

Pastoral care is for your benefit, not mine. I don't need to know about every illness or doctor's appointment that you have. But any time you are dealing with a situation where you would like to hear God's Word or have some guidance with your prayers, please don't hesitate to call. Even if the situation is not life-threatening, it's always comforting to hear God's Word and pray with someone. I'm also available to bring the Lord's Supper, and to hear your confession and speak God's Word of forgiveness. It doesn't just have to be a health issue; I'm always willing to meet with you to speak God's Word and to pray.

Sometimes people tell me that they know that I'm busy and they don't want to bother me. I certainly appreciate that sentiment, but if I've got something else more pressing to deal with, I will let you know. We may even be able to talk and pray together over the phone, or I can send you an e-mail with some thoughts when I get a chance. In general, my schedule is very flexible, and I can easily accommodate pastoral care needs and emergencies, but if you wait until the last minute to call, there's always a possibility that I might be busy with something else.

If you are not sure whether or not you should call, just go ahead and check in with me, and we can come up with a plan that best meets your needs. I know that some people are more private with their personal situations and others are more open. I can always keep confidential whatever you are dealing with, whether it is a health situation or some other need. Just don't wait until the last minute, so that you can be sure to receive the best possible pastoral care, whatever your circumstance.

God's Blessings,

**Pastor Mark Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Ladies Aid

All women of Faith are invited to our meeting on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. We meet in the Parish Hall. We will discuss plans for the up-coming year.

Kathleen Novak—Membership Chairman

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## “Songs of Grace and Mercy”

On September 21<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 PM, Faith’s choir, along with a few other area musicians, will be presenting a special concert with the theme “Songs of Grace and Mercy.” There will also be instrumental preludes and interludes on the same theme. Proceeds of the door offering for this concert will go towards preparing the church for Faith’s 75th anniversary. Be sure to come!

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## Guest Preacher

On Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, our guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. John Kleinig. Some of you may remember Dr. Kleinig from his visit with us several years ago when the Friday morning Bible Class was reading his book: Grace Upon Grace. Dr. Kleinig was Pastor Birkholz’s advisor for the Master of Theology degree he completed at Australian Lutheran College. Dr. Kleinig is now retired, but travels often to speak here in the United States.

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## Sunday School

Faith’s Sunday School is continuing to help serve the needs of our young people. We will be meeting once more this summer, on August 17<sup>th</sup>, and then beginning on September 7<sup>th</sup> we will meet every Sunday. We are always looking for teachers and helpers. Even if you are unable to help every week, we can use substitutes to fill in when other teachers are not available. For more information, contact Mike Kampenga or Pastor Birkholz.

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## Pastor’s Schedule

Pastor Birkholz will be teaching a class at Concordia University Chicago in both the fall and spring semesters in the coming school year. The course is a basic class on the Bible, and will be held once a week on Tuesday evenings, from 7:00p-9:30p. Pastor Birkholz will still be available in the case of emergencies, as serving our congregation remains his priority.

## Vacation Bible School

Our River of Life VBS was a smashing success. We had thirty one different children attend, including several new families. The children enjoyed learning all about baptism as the River of Life. They learned several hymns as well as parts of the Matins worship service and sang portions of the Small Catechism.

We raised \$240 dollars for our mission project, "Amigos en Cristo." This means we were able to send 48 Spanish Bibles with Small Catechisms (both books bound in one volume) to families in Central and South America and also to Hispanic ministry programs in the United States through the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

We could not have been successful without all the wonderful help of our volunteers. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped out with VBS.

Amberleigh Birkholz

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## Upcoming Festival Services

In the month of September this year, two special festivals happen to fall on Sundays.

**Holy Cross Day** is September 14. The date goes back to 335 AD, when the church of the Holy Sepulchre, built over the place where many believe Jesus was crucified, was dedicated. Our focus is not on the relics of the cross or identifying the exact location where Jesus died, but remembering the message of the cross. We say along with St. Paul, “For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Cor 1:18)

On September 21 we celebrate the **Feast of St. Matthew**. Matthew, also known as Levi, was one of Jesus’ disciples who had worked as a tax collector. He is best known for writing the Gospel that bears his name. We give thanks for the merciful love of God who uses all people as His instruments of love.

For more a complete listing of these special celebrations, see page xi in the front of our hymnal.

# Schedule of Aug. / Sept. 2014 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Aug. Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 PM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
10	9:00 PM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
24	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
31	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sept. Event</u>
6	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
7	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
14	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
20	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
21	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class
28	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Adult Bible Class

## Weekly Meetings

Sunday School Sept. Every Sunday  
10:15 AM

Bible Study Fri. - 11:00 AM

Confirmation Class Thurs. - 3:30 PM

AA Groups Mon. & Fri. - 6:00 PM  
Sat. - 8:00 AM

Alanon Tue. - 7:30 PM

## Update on Dr. Mumme

For the past two years, we have been supporting the work of Dr. Jonathan Mumme as tutor of Westfield House. Dr. Mumme has recently received a call to teach theology at Concordia University Wisconsin. Please keep him in your prayers as he considers this opportunity to serve. The Mumme family was also blessed by the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Linda, born on July 19. Pastor Birkholz will be serving as Elizabeth's godfather.

## Hymns of the Month

**August:** "Word of God, Come Down on Earth" (# 545)

This newer hymn utilizes the popular melody from "Dearest Jesus We are Here" to create a beautiful meditation on Jesus Christ as the Word of God. The first verse uses imagery from Isaiah 55:10 that compares God's Word to the refreshing rainfall. In verse two, the creedal language of Jesus' conception, death and resurrection is applied to Jesus as the Word of God. The third verse speaks of the healing power of God's Word, and the last verse reminds us of the Word's power in our life to save us.

**September:** "Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds" (# 867)

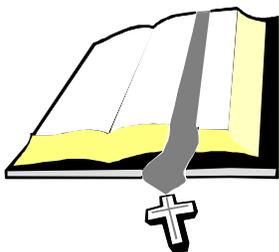
As young people return to school in the fall, it's appropriate for us to remember our responsibility to ensure that all children know the mighty deeds of God. This hymn reminds us of the importance to make sure that each generation knows what God has done for them and passes this saving message on to the next generation, so that all people will have faith in God and follow His commands.

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

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## Aug. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Aug. 3</b>	Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Gail Henson Howard Johnson
<b>Aug. 10</b>	Frank Oslakovic Richard Clark Katie Kampenga Mike Kampenga
<b>Aug. 17</b>	Gene Osmanski Bob Green Eric Rosenbrock Richard Clark
<b>Aug. 24</b>	Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Nick Trojanowski Mark Trojanowski
<b>Aug. 31</b>	Frank Oslakovic Gene Osmanski Ray Bennett Mary Slepiski



## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Aug. 3</b>	Ed Neaves
<b>Aug. 10</b>	Mike Kampenga
<b>Aug. 17</b>	Gene Osmanski
<b>Aug. 24</b>	Mark Trojanowski
<b>Aug. 31</b>	Ray Bennett

## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Sept. 7</b>	Debbie Hochgesang
<b>Sept. 14</b>	Nick Trojanowski
<b>Sept. 21</b>	Katie Kampenga
<b>Sept. 28</b>	Ray Bennett

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## Sept. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Sept. 7</b>	Ed Neaves Richard Clark Howard Johnson Gail Henson
<b>Sept. 14</b>	Alden Ketchum Frank Oslakovic Nick Trojanowski Mark Trojanowski
<b>Sept. 21</b>	Gene Osmanski Bob Green Mike Kampenga Katie Kampenga
<b>Sept. 28</b>	Richard Clark Ed Neaves Eric Rosenbrock Ray Bennett

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## Faith Hope Peace (FHP) Ministries

Faith Hope Peace (FHP) Ministries now brings weekly church services to 12 residential care facilities in the area. Each of the 4 weeks during the month of June 2014, an average of about 220 fellow Christians gathered together to hear our Lord's wonderful news! Several of our residential facilities also video-stream our weekly church services on televisions throughout the building(s) for those residents that cannot make it to the services.

What a great way to further spread the Word of Christ! If you would like to share your musical talents, help with correspondence, or help out at any of the weekly services, please contact Pastor Birkholz, or Craig Chidester, Executive Director, at 630-710-0396 or [cdc33@att.net](mailto:cdc33@att.net).