

FAITH NEWSLETTER

Oct. 2015 / Nov. 2015



Dear Friends,

As I type this, I am in the hospital. Again. It seems like over the past few months I've spent more time than usual in hospitals. And if I'm not in a hospital, I'm in a nursing home, an assisted living facility, or a rehab center. I'm not complaining. It's part of my calling to be with the sick, the suffering, and the dying, and to bring them the comfort of Jesus through His Word and His body and blood.

Hospitals are not the most comfortable place to stay. Even with the nicest nurses and the best doctors, most people would rather be at home. They are there because it is what's best for them; they need some sort of treatment that can only be given at a hospital.

At the hospital it is all business. The doctors and nurses are there to do a job, to help you get better. They aren't particularly interested if you like them on a personal level, or if you feel at home. Their focus is on bringing you healing. The nurse will give you a shot, even if it hurts, because the medicine you receive will bring you healing.

Think of a therapist. They may do things to you that may make you uncomfortable, that may actually hurt, but they are simply getting your bones and muscles to move in the right way so that you can take care of yourself.

Many people have described the church as a hospital. It's a place to receive healing. Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." Jesus compared Himself to a doctor, and sin to an illness. The job of the church is to help you to diagnose your sickness (law) and provide healing (gospel). The job of the church is not to make you comfortable, to help you feel good about yourself, or to entertain you. The church is here to give you healing.

The reason our churches are so empty is because people either don't realize that they're sick, or don't know where to find the cure.

To the first point, our culture has become so indulgent that we tell people that whatever they feel or think must be right. There is no need to be ashamed of even the most impure thoughts and desires, because we are told that they are natural and must be celebrated. They don't know that they are sick.

To the second point, many people are truly broken and hurting, but they don't see Jesus in His Church as able to give any help. They expect to be judged or taken advantage of in the church. They have had a bad experience or heard stories of abuse. And so they stay away.

The role of the church is to be true to what Jesus has made us to be. We must be honest with people in diagnosing their spiritual illnesses, whether they like the news or not. No good physician will simply tell you what you want to hear, that all is well when you have a critical illness. But we also have the joy of giving out the healing gifts to those who are hurting, to apply the balm of Jesus' Word and the medicine of immortality in His body and blood.

Believe it or not, going to the hospital can be a good thing, a joyful thing, when you receive healing and leave in better health than when you came. Going to church can be a good thing, as Jesus gives you and all of us the healing that we need.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Mark Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

It is time again for our Ladies Annual Fall and Christmas Bazaar. The date is Saturday, November 7th from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. in the church basement. There will be chili for lunch, a bake sale, raffle, white elephant and craft booth.

Any donations will be much appreciated, but most of all you and your friends are welcome to attend a day of fellowship.

Our regular meeting will be Nov. 5th at 6:30 P.M. We will be setting up for the bazaar and would appreciate any help you can give us.

Thank you.

Fall Clean-Up Day

Join us on October 10th at 8:00 AM as we work on a few projects and do some general cleaning up of the church grounds. We'll also be setting up for the Chili Cook-Off.

Heat up the Basement

Join us for some good food and fellowship as we help raise money for new parts for our boiler. The Trustees are hosting a Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, October 10th. Chili tasting will begin at 5:00 PM. The votes will be counted and a meal will be served at 5:30 PM. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and younger. Admission includes chili tasting, burger and chips, a drink and dessert. Please sign up at church if you can bring anything or help serve at the event. For more information, contact Mike Kampenga or the church office.

Circuit Reformation Service

On Thursday, October 29th at 7:00 PM, our Circuit will celebrate Reformation Day, and Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses nearly 500 years ago. The service will be hosted by Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hodgkins, located at 6605 Kane Ave.

All Saints' Day

This year All Saints' Day, November 1st, happens to fall on a Sunday. Once more we will take a moment in our 9:00 AM Divine Service to remember those who have died in the faith, especially members of our congregation who have fallen asleep in Jesus in the past year. This year we will remember by name Louis Mirocha, Louise DeVries, and Marlis Lee. We will also give thanks for those who have been made saints in holy baptism in our congregation in the past year: Sheila Kush and Katherine Belser.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Before the turkey and pumpkin pie, receive a true meal of thanksgiving at our Lord's Table. Our Thanksgiving Eve service will be on Wednesday, Nov 25th at 7:00 PM.

November Voters Meeting

Watch for the published date of the next Voters meeting. We will be voting in officers of the church as well as the 2016 budget.

If you would like a copy of the proposed slate of officers and the proposed budget please ask an elder, usher or Mr. Ed Neaves.

Schedule of Oct. / Nov. 2015 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>October Event</u>
3	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
4	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
11	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
17	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
18	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
25	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

Bible Study	Fri. - 11:00 AM
Confirmation Class	Fri. - 4:30 PM
AA Groups	Mon-Wed-Fri - 6:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
Alanon	Tue. - 7:30 PM

Hymn of the Month

October: (#658)

“Preserve your Word, O Savior”

Andreas Gryphius was born just before the start of the 30 Years’ War. He was forced to spend most of his early life traveling throughout Europe to avoid the various conflicts. During a period of study in Danzig, Gryphius took up poetry and quickly became known throughout Holland, Germany and beyond. His hymn “Preserve Your Word, O Savior,” is a fervent prayer for the Lord to aid us during any time of trial and need. In particular it focuses on the dangers that face the church, pictured as a boat traveling through stormy seas to the safe harbor of eternal rest.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>November Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
15	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
21	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
22	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
25	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Eve Worship / Communion
29	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class

Hymn of the Month

November: (#516)

“Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying”

This “King of Chorales” is based on Jesus’ parable of the ten virgins (bridesmaids) who are waiting for the bridegroom’s arrival. The five wise virgins have enough oil for their lamps and join in the festive procession, while the five foolish virgins run out of oil and miss out of the celebration. This hymn was written by Philipp Nicolai, a Lutheran pastor who lived from 1556 to 1608. He served during a time of a plague, and in seven months 1,400 members of his town died. Nicolai was a staunch defender of Lutheran teaching, particularly on the Lord’s Supper, against those who would diminish the presence of Jesus’ body and blood. He also wrote “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright,” known as the “Queen of the Chorales.”

Oct. / Nov. Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Oct. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- Oct. 4** Frank Oslakovic
Ed Neaves
Mike Kampenga
Katie Kampenga
- Oct. 11** Alden Ketchum
Eric Rosenbrock
Howard Johnson
Mark Trojanowski
- Oct. 18** Ed Neaves
Richard Clark
Marilyn Diehl
Eleonore Lang
- Oct. 25** Alden Ketchum
Gene Osmanski
Ray Bennett
Dora Haynes

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

- Oct. 4** Gene Osmanski
- Oct. 11** Mike Kampenga
- Oct. 18** Katie Kampenga
- Oct. 25** Ray Bennett
- Nov. 1** Ed Neaves
- Nov. 8** Debbie Hochgesang
- Nov. 15** Mike Kampenga
- Nov. 22** Mark Trojanowski
- Nov. 29** Gene Osmanski

Nov. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

- Nov. 1** Richard Clark
Frank Oslakovic
Mike Kampenga
Katie Kampenga
- Nov. 8** Ed Neaves
Howard Johnson
Mary Slepki
Gail Henson
- Nov. 15** Alden Ketchum
Gene Osmanski
Valerie Conrad
Brianna Osterloh
- Nov. 22** Richard Clark
Eric Rosenbrock
Howard Johnson
Dora Haynes
- Nov. 25** **Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 P.M.**
Ed Neaves
Richard Clark
Alden Ketchum
Gene Osmanski
- Nov. 29** Ed Neaves
Frank Oslakovic
Marilyn Diehl
Eleonore Lang

