

FAITH NEWSLETTER

June / July 2016



Dear Friends in Christ,

In the past few weeks, I've been doing a bit of work around the parsonage—adding some landscaping, planting a few flowers, getting the vegetable garden in. It's satisfying work because at the end of the day I can step back and actually see what I've done. It may not be finished, and it may not be perfect, but I have something tangible as evidence of my work. This is something that I enjoy with a number of hobbies, whether it's smoking meat, canning jams, or brewing a batch of beer, I have something at the end of the process that I can see (and often taste).

Being a pastor is not often like that. I rarely see the results of my work. I can point to a sermon that I prepared, or to a person that I have baptized, but I can't see the faith inside the one who has heard the sermon or been baptized.

It's that way for all of us in our Christian lives. You may spend hours talking and praying with a friend, teaching a child, or visiting a loved one in a nursing home, and you may never see any result. At times it may not seem like you're doing any good.

It may seem that way for us at Faith sometimes, too. We send kids to Sunday School, VBS, and Confirmation, never to see them again once they reach high school. People who were once regular in worship come less and less frequently, until they stop coming altogether. We invite new people to join us and they never respond.

One aspect of faith is to trust and believe that God is at work through the Holy Spirit, even when we can't see results, even if there's nothing tangible we can point to as evidence. Ultimately we don't really "do anything" when it comes to creating and strengthening faith, either in ourselves or one another. God chooses to use us as His instruments, but He's the one doing all the work. Often God works in ways that we can't see, and according to His timing, not ours.

Sometimes we do get to see God at work, as individuals and as a congregation. In those times, we give glory and praise to God for what He has done. And even when we see little or no evidence of His work among us, we still give glory and praise to God, trusting that His Word and Spirit will accomplish His work, according to His good and gracious will.

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Ladies Aid

A big thank you to all who helped make the Rummage and Bake Sale such a success. We are a small group of ladies and the cheerful help we are given is appreciated.

Our annual pizza party will be on June 9th at 6:30 PM. All ladies are welcome to join us for good fellowship.

Summer Catechesis: Holy Baptism

This will be our fourth year in working our way through the Small Catechism in the summer months. This summer we will be studying the fourth chief part, Holy Baptism in our sermons and Bible Class from July 10-31. We will see how the gift of baptism is something through which God works our whole life long.

VBS

This year's VBS theme is "Growing in Christ." All young people age 12 and younger are invited. VBS will be from 9:30a - 12:00p on June 13 - 17. Both adult and youth helpers are needed.

The congregation is invited to the closing service at 11:30p on Friday, June 17th. Refreshments will be served following the service, and you will have an opportunity to meet with the VBS students and their families.

For more information, see Amberleigh Birkholz

Church Picnic

Our church picnic will be on Sunday, June 12th at 12:00p at the Wolfe Wildlife Refuge (109th St. and Laramie Ave in Oak Lawn). Meat and drinks will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.

We will be playing BINGO. Please bring a wrapped prize (\$5 value) if you wish to play.

Faith Hope and Peace Ministries

Pastor Birkholz is a founding member of this organization and serves on its Board of Directors. Here's their summer update:

Faith, Hope, and Peace (FHP) Ministries is a volunteer organization working around the suburban area since 2009 to bring the Word of God to those living in area residential care facilities. As we approach the middle of 2016, we have added yet another new facility beginning June 8th (Deer Path of Huntley) to total 17 facilities whose residents receive the message of salvation each week.

Currently, over 104 volunteers (pastors, organists, hosts, administrative assistants) from 37 area churches serve our facilities by providing weekly church services to residents. Our average attendance is around 275 per week. If you could spare a few hours during the week to play a keyboard, help residents at the services, share your clerical skills, use your sewing talents, or just help out with a task when needed, please contact Craig Chidester, Executive Director, at 630-710-0396 or cdc33@att.net. Visit our website at www.fhpministries.org. Your willingness to spread the Word is a wonderful statement of faith as we grow together in Christ. Thanks and may God bless you!

Summer Family Bible Class

Summer Bible Class will start on June 19. Once again we will take a look each week at the readings and hymns and see how everything fits together. There will be activities for the kids too, so bring the whole family.

Windy City Thunderbolts Game

Join us as we see Crestwood's minor league baseball team in action. For only \$15 you get food, drinks, and a ticket to the game. The tentative date is Saturday, July 23rd for a 6:05p start against the Gateway Grizzlies. This is a fireworks night as well as their annual "Christmas in July" game. For more information, see Ed Neaves.

Schedule of June / July 2016 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>June Event</u>
4	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
5	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
12	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
18	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
19	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
26	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

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

June Hymn of the Month

“Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing” (#584)

The summer is a season for growth. The paraments turn to green and we look to grow in our faith. This hymn from Anglican Timothy Dudley Smith focuses on themes of life and growth that we receive as the Holy Spirit is at work in “Scripture, song, and story.” The tune for this hymn is an American folk tune from the early 19th century.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>July Event</u>
2	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
3	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
10	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
16	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
17	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
24	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class
31	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Adult Bible Class

July Hymn of the Month

“All Christians Who Have Been Baptized” (#596)

Paul Gerhardt is one of the greatest Lutheran hymn-writers. He beautifully connects scriptural teaching with memorably imagery, getting to the heart of the Christian faith. This hymn was newly translated for the Lutheran Service Book. It tells of all the blessings of Holy Baptism from the beginning of our life until the end. The tune is probably familiar. It was originally written for “Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice,” and has been used for several others.

June / July 2016 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

June Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

June 5	Alden Ketchum Gene Osmanski Mary Slepki Gail Henson
June 12	Frank Oslakovic Ed Neaves Howard Johnson Mark Trojanowski
June 19	Alden Ketchum Richard Clark Marilyn Diehl Eleonore Lang
June 26	Frank Oslakovic Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Cheyenne Breitbarth

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

June 5	Gene Osmanski
June 12	Mike Kampenga
June 19	Katie Kampenga
June 26	Ray Bennett
July 3	Ed Neaves
July 10	Debbie Hochgesang
July 17	Mike Kampenga
July 24	Mark Trojanowski
July 31	Gene Osmanski



July Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

July 3	Richard Clark Ed Neaves Mike Kampenga Katie Kampenga
July 10	Gene Osmanski Alden Ketchum Mark Trojanowski Dora Haynes
July 17	Frank Oslakovic Ed Neaves Eric Rosenbrock Ray Bennett
July 24	Richard Clark Howard Johnson Mike Kampenga Katie Kampenga
July 31	Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Kenilynn Breitbarth Ray Bennett

Graduation Party



Jill Buccola is graduating this spring with a Master's degree from the University of Chicago. She has accepted a position in the admissions department of Hillsdale College in Michigan. We will bid her farewell and Godspeed during the service on June 5. She will be hosting a graduation party at Faith on Friday, June 10 from 4:00p-7:00p. Light refreshments will be served. Please stop by to bid her farewell. No gifts, please, just bring yourself.