

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

Aug. / Sept. 2016

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Beloved in Christ,

When you hear the word “faith,” what do you think? A series of statements that you agree with? A fervent trust in someone else?

Your faith is more than just a collection of ideas in your head or emotions in your heart. You are a whole person, and so your faith involves your whole self, including all of your physical senses. Faith involves your head, your heart, and your body, too.

The starting point is with God and His love for you. God’s love for you is a physical, tangible love. It began with God creating a physical world. Then God became a physical person in Jesus Christ. God also gives you your “body and soul, eyes, ears, and all [your] senses and still takes care of them.”

God interacts with you through your senses as you hear His word, are touched by water in Holy Baptism, and eat and drink His body and blood in the Lord’s Supper.

God then calls you to live out this faith in your daily life in ways that give a tangible witness to how He has loved you.

We’ll be exploring these issues in a special program, “Experiencing the Love of Jesus” coming up from 6:00p – 8:00p, August 8-12. Each evening we will take a look at each of the five sense in terms of how Jesus loves us through these senses, and what this means for life in our congregation, home, and community.

Everyone is welcome to attend. This will be an interactive program; we won’t just be sitting around talking, but all of our senses will be engaged.

So bring your whole family. Invite your friends and neighbors. This is a great way to introduce them to Jesus’ love.

Many thanks,

**Pastor Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Dear Friends in Christ,

I sent out this message via email after a devastating week that saw the upheaval caused by more police shootings, the ambush of policemen in Dallas, and the terrorist rampage in Nice, France. Since then there have been additional attacks in Baton Rouge, Germany, Japan, and France. When we can't seem to find the words to say, we turn to God's word for guidance:

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not hear?  
Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?  
Why do you make me see iniquity,  
and why do you idly look at wrong?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.  
So the law is paralyzed,  
and justice never goes forth.  
For the wicked surround the righteous;  
so justice goes forth perverted.

These are the words of the prophet Habakkuk.  
They seem fitting for our situation today:

All around us we see violence, destruction, and wickedness. Justice is perverted. The innocent are oppressed.

Here is the Lord's answer to Habakkuk, and to you, when you feel the same frustration:

"Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so he may read who reads it.  
For still the vision awaits its appointed time;  
it hastens to the end - it will not lie.  
If it seems slow, wait for it;  
it will surely come; it will not delay."  
"Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,  
but the righteous shall live by his faith."

The last line is key: "The righteous shall live by his faith." It's hard to have faith in trying times, whether the problems are across the globe or in your own home.

*(Continued next column)*

## Join us on Sunday

On Sunday we hear God's Word together. Paul says, "Faith comes by hearing." Only the Holy Spirit can give us faith to trust in Jesus in times like these. Each Sunday we:

- Hear our Lord's words and promises of hope.
- Give and receive the peace of God within the fellowship of the body of Christ.
- Pray for all who mourn, for our leaders, and for our enemies. - Eat and drink the body and blood of Jesus that suffered violence, and yet rose triumphant from death and the grave, so that you, too, would receive His life that never ends.

Pastor

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## Ladies Aid

As summer comes to an end our ladies are ready to start thinking of our fall activities.

Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM we will be meeting in the Parish Hall for our meeting. All ladies are invited to join us for an evening of fellowship and planning. We hope to see you there.

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## Stewardship Update

The Stewardship Committee met in July to discuss our congregation's financial state. While our spending has remained in line with our budget, giving is down significantly compared with past years. We are planning to have a Stewardship Program later this fall, so watch for information on how you can help.

Please keep our congregational leaders in your prayers, be faithful in your attendance, and give generously as you are able.

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## Voter's Meeting

Our next Voter's Meeting will be September 18<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. We meet in the church basement.

Please plan on joining us as we discuss the important issues of our congregation.

# Schedule of Aug. / Sept. 2016 Events

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

## Weekly Meetings

<b>Bible Study</b>	Fri. - 10:00 AM
<b>AA Groups</b>	Mon-Wed-Fri - 7:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
<b>Alanon</b>	Tue. - 7:30 PM

## August Hymn of the month:

### “Before the Throne of God Above” (# 574)

This hymn uses simple and profound language and imagery to connect us with Jesus Christ. He is our high priest who intercedes for us at God’s right hand. No matter how Satan accuses us, we have Jesus to plead for us, through His holy sacrifice for our sin.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sept. Event</u>
3	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
4	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>
11	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>
17	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
18	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>
25	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Bible Class</b>

## September Hymn of the month:

### “God Has Spoken By His Prophets” (# 583)

God’s Word is at the center of our worship and our Christian life. The three verses of this hymn show how God spoke to us in the past, and continues to speak to us today. It begins with the prophetic Word of God in the Old Testament, where God made promises that we still rely upon. God continued to speak to us through Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. And as we hear His Word proclaimed to us, God is still speaking by His Holy Spirit.



# Aug. / Sept. 2016 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

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## August Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Aug. 7</b>	Alden Ketchum Gene Osmanski Mary Slepki Gail Henson
<b>Aug. 14</b>	Frank Oslakovic Ed Neaves Howard Johnson Mark Trojanowski
<b>Aug. 21</b>	Alden Ketchum Richard Clark Marilyn Diehl Eleonore Lang
<b>Aug. 28</b>	Frank Oslakovic Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Cheyenne Breitbarth

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## September Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Sept. 4</b>	Richard Clark Ed Neaves Mike Kampenga Katie Kampenga
<b>Sept. 11</b>	Gene Osmanski Alden Ketchum Mark Trojanowski Dora Haynes
<b>Sept. 18</b>	Frank Oslakovic Ed Neaves Eric Rosenbrock Ray Bennett
<b>Sept. 25</b>	Richard Clark Howard Johnson Mike Kampenga Katie Kampenga

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## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Aug. 7</b>	Gene Osmanski
<b>Aug. 14</b>	Mike Kampenga
<b>Aug. 21</b>	Katie Kampenga
<b>Aug. 28</b>	Ray Bennett

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## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Sept. 4</b>	Ed Neaves
<b>Sept. 11</b>	Debbie Hochgesang
<b>Sept. 18</b>	Mike Kampenga
<b>Sept. 25</b>	Mark Trojanowski

