

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

April / May 2017

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you see yourself as a priest? In 1 Peter 2:9, you are called a “royal priesthood.” In baptism, God makes you a priest. The priest’s main job is to intercede for others, and so the main way that you exercise your priesthood is when you pray.

When you go out into the world, you are constantly confronted by people and situations that seem beyond your ability to help. These are occasions for prayer, for placing all these needs before God’s heavenly throne of grace. You can pray on your own, and you can also invite others to join you in prayer.

The biggest way that we can make a difference in the lives of those around us is by praying for them. We can certainly add to our prayers our own actions as we show mercy and kindness to those in need, but prayer does even more than we can do on our own. Prayer gets God involved. God invites us to pray and promises to hear us for Jesus’ sake.

On the first Saturday in May we will be holding a special community prayer service at 2:00p. The purpose of this service is to pray for all those around us. We will pray for:

- Our government, both on the local and national level.
- Peace between nations and in our families.
- The military and all who work in public safety.
- The homeless, the unemployed, and the underemployed.
- The sick, injured, and recovering.
- Those who suffer from mental illness and addiction.
- Those who mourn.
- Our churches and schools.
- Any other requests we receive.

We are looking for specific prayer requests for this service. Prayer request cards are available at church, or you can contact me directly. Please talk to your friends and neighbors and ask them how we can pray for them. Also invite them to join us for this simple service on May 6. Following the service we will have an ice cream social for those who can stay. I hope you will be with us on that date as we act as the priests whom God has made us to be.

Peace be with you,

**Pastor Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

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## Holy Week Services

### **Palm Sunday- April 9, 9:00AM**

The children will sing as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will also read together the passion story from St. Matthew.

### **Maundy Thursday- April 13, 7:00PM**

We will gather to confess our sins and receive forgiveness, and to celebrate together the Lord's Supper, as Jesus instituted it for His disciples on the night on which He was betrayed. The service will conclude with the stripping of the altar as Psalm 22 is sung ("My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?")

### **Good Friday, Chief Service- April 14, 3:00PM**

This service focuses on Jesus' suffering and death, using the passion account from St. John. We will hear the reproaches and pray together the bidding prayer.

### **Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers- April 14, 7:00PM**

In this service of darkness and shadow we use the psalms and the song of Habakkuk as we meditate on the death of Jesus.

### **Easter Vigil- April 15, 7:00PM**

This ancient service leads us through Jesus' death to His new life. It begins with fire and light, we hear the great stories of salvation from the Old Testament, and we remember the new life that we have in Holy Baptism. Then we rejoice in the good news of the resurrection and celebrate the Lord's Supper together once more.

### **Easter Sunday- April 16, 9:00AM**

Holy Week concludes with a celebration of Jesus' victory over death and the grave.

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## Easter Breakfast

Join us for breakfast before our service on Easter Sunday. We will begin serving at 8:00a. Please sign up at church if you plan to come, and if you can bring a dish to share.

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## Ascension

Every week we confess that Jesus "ascended into heaven." St. Luke tells us that this happened forty days after Easter. Join us on Thursday, May 25th for a 7:00PM festival service as we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord.

## Reformation Reading

Here's the schedule for the coming months:

Apr 2	Luke 8-12
Apr 9	Luke 13-17
Apr 16	Luke 18-22
Apr 23	Luke 23-24; Acts 1-3
Apr 30	Acts 4-8
May 7	Acts 9-13
May 14	Acts 14-18
May 21	Acts 19-23
May 28	Acts 24-28

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## Ladies Aid

Thanks to all who helped and came to our Rummage Sale. Without your support we could not have made it a success.

April 6<sup>th</sup> will be our monthly meeting and May 4<sup>th</sup> will be our ice cream social. All ladies of Faith are invited.

Blessings of Easter to you and your family.

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## Earth Day Clean-Up

Oak Lawn volunteers will be cleaning up 95th Street from Pulaski to Oak Park Avenue on Saturday, April 22nd. We'll start around 10:00AM. Watch for more details in the coming weeks.

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## VBS

This year's theme will be "Christmas in June." Come to learn what the story of Christmas means for us all year round. VBS will be from June 19-23, 9:30am-12:00pm each day. All children ages 3-12 are welcome. Children under three may attend, but must be accompanied by an adult. We are in need of volunteers for any and all days. The Volunteer Meeting will be on Saturday, May 27th at 10:00am in the Parish Hall. Please invite any young people you know to join us for VBS.

# Schedule of Apr. / May 2017 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Apr. Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
2	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
	7:00 PM	<b>Lenten Service</b>
9	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
13	7:00 PM	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>
14	3:00 & 7:00 PM	<b>Good Friday Service</b>
15	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
15	7:00 PM	<b>Easter Vigil</b>
16	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
23	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
30	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>

## Weekly Meetings

<b>Bible Study</b>	Fri. - 10:00 AM
<b>AA Groups</b>	Mon.&Fri .- 6:00 PM
	Wed .- 7:00 PM
	Sat. - 8:00 AM
<b>Alanon</b>	Tue. - 7:30 PM

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>May Event</u>
6	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
7	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
14	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
20	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
21	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>
28	9:00 AM	<b>Worship / Communion</b>
	10:15 AM	<b>Sunday School</b>
	10:30 AM	<b>Adult Bible Class</b>

## Hymn of the Week for Easter

### “All the Earth with Joy Is Sounding” (# 462)

This hymn was new with Hymnal Supplement 98. It was written by Stephen Starke, who also composed “Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying” and “The Tree of Life.” A few years ago we used this as one of our VBS songs. When Jesus talks about His resurrection, He compares Himself to Jonah. Just as Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days, so Jesus would be in the belly of the fish for three days. This hymn incorporates this language into the very first verse, “He, the greater Jonah, bounding, from the grave, His three-day bed.” The entire hymn is filled with biblical pictures of Jesus’ victory over death.

# April / May 2017 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

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## April Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**Apr. 2** Gene Osmanski  
Ed Neaves  
Mary Slepiski  
Ray Bennett

**Apr. 9** Mike Kampenga  
Alden Ketchum  
Kenilynn Breitbarth  
Mark Trojanowski

**Apr. 16** Ed Neaves  
Richard Clark  
Marilyn Diehl  
Eleonore Lang

**Apr. 23** Alden Ketchum  
Gene Osmanski  
Mike Kampenga  
Katie Kampenga

**Apr. 30** Richard Clark  
Ed Neaves  
Cheyenne Breibarh  
Mark Trojanowski

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## Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

**Apr. 2** Gene Osmanski

**Apr. 9** Mike Kampenga

**Apr. 16** Katie Kampenga

**Apr. 23** Ray Benett

**Apr. 30** Cheyenne Breibarh

**May 7** Kenilynn Breitbarth

**May 14** Dora Haynes

**May 21** Mark Trojanowski

**May 28** Debbie Hockgesang

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## May Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

**May 7** Gene Osmanski  
Ed Neaves  
Mary Slepiski  
Ray Bennett

**May 14** Mike Kampenga  
Richard Clark  
Mark Trojanowski  
Dora Haynes

**May 21** Ed Neaves  
Mike Kampenga  
Eleonore Lang  
Katie Kampenga

**May 28** Ed Neaves  
Richard Clark  
Marilyn Diehl  
Eleonore Lang

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## Midweek Services 7:00 PM

**Apr. 5** Alden Ketchum  
Mike Kampenga

**Apr. 13** Ed Neaves  
Richard Clark  
Ray Bennett  
Mary Slepiski

**Apr. 14** **3:00 PM**  
Ed Neaves  
Alden Ketchum

**7:00 PM**  
Richard Clark  
Gene Osmanski

**Apr. 15** Mike Kampenga  
Gene Osmanski  
Katie Kampenga  
Mark Trojanowski

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# Ask the Pastor

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## **I noticed that there are two genealogies for Jesus in the Bible. Why are they different?**

Both Matthew and Luke provide Jesus' genealogy. Matthew starts with Abraham and goes forward to Jesus. Luke starts with Jesus and goes backwards all the way to Adam. The names from Abraham to David are the same, but the names from David to Joseph are different. Matthew follows Jesus' family line through King Solomon, while Luke uses a different son of David, Nathan.

Scholars have known about this issue for many years. According to some, Matthew gives Joseph's genealogy and Luke gives Mary's. According to this view, when Luke says that Joseph was the "son of Heli," in Luke 3:23, he really means "son-in-law." Another option is that Joseph was a child from a Levirate marriage. This is what happened when a woman becomes a widow without having a son. She then marries her husband's brother so that he could give her a son. That child would be physically the son of the woman's second husband, but legally he would be considered the son of her first husband. It is possible that Joseph was the legal son of Jacob (Matt 1:15) and the physical son of Heli (Luke 3:23).

In the end, there is no easy way to resolve this issue, and the name of Jesus' grandfather is not that important. What we note from the genealogies is that Matthew wants to emphasize Jesus' royal lineage, and that Luke presents Jesus as the New Adam come to usher in the New Creation.

## **If Joseph is not Jesus' true father, how can Jesus be the "Son of David"?**

There are two possible ways to address this issue. Some consider Mary to be descended from David. Those who take this approach tend to view the genealogy in Luke 3 as being for Mary and not Joseph. I think this would be a mistake, as Luke is a careful historian who makes a big point of Joseph being "of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4). Luke describes Mary as a relative of Zachariah and Elizabeth, who were both Levites and descended from Aaron (Luke 1:5, 36).

A better way to look at this is to consider that even if Joseph was not Jesus' physical father, he was still Jesus' legal father. When Joseph married Mary, he became the legal guardian of Jesus and was responsible for him. When Mary finds Jesus in the temple, she refers to Joseph as "your father" (Luke 2:48). The folks in Nazareth also knew Jesus as "the carpenter's son" (Matt 13:55). So even if Joseph did not contribute to Jesus' DNA, it was still proper to consider him Jesus' father in the legal or adoptive sense.