

FAITH NEWSLETTER

April / May 2018



Dear Friends in Christ,

What makes you angry, upset, or concerned? What gets your blood boiling?

A few weeks ago, I was quite upset about the situation with our new organ. There was yet another delay, and plans that we had made needed to be changed. I was angry.

And then I remembered the story of Jonah.

Most of us know the first half of the story: Jonah disobeys God's call to preach in Nineveh. He boards a ship and sails in the opposite direction. A storm comes up, and Jonah is thrown overboard. He's swallowed by a big fish, and after three days, he's vomited up on the shore, and finally he goes and preaches like he was supposed to.

Do you remember what happened next?

Jonah sits at a distance to watch the destruction of Nineveh (he hopes). The sun is hot, but a vine grows up quickly and gives him some shade. But the next day a worm comes and begins to eat the vine, causing the vine to die and Jonah to lose his shade.

Jonah is angry. He says he is "angry enough to die," because he's lost his shade. But the Lord rebukes Jonah. Jonah cares more about that plant than he did for the whole city of Nineveh with its thousands of people, who are all in danger of perishing if they do not repent.

We live in a place like Nineveh. There are thousands of people all around us who do not know the Lord. That's what we should care about. And yet we often get angry and upset about trivial things, like Jonah with his shade, or me with the new organ.

As we move forward this year, let's make sure that we care about what really matters - the people around us who do not know the Lord. And let's do something about it, as God calls us to bear witness to His good news.

Many thanks,

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Holy Week Services

This newsletter is being published earlier than usual, to remind you of our upcoming Holy Week services. Each service is unique, and we encourage you to join us as often as you can.

Maundy Thursday, March 29, 7:00PM

We remember the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples, and we hear Psalm 22 sung as the altar is stripped.

Good Friday, Chief Service, Mar. 30, 3:00PM

We hear the passion account from St. John and sing "O Sacred Head Now Wounded." The cross is brought in to the church as we confess our sins and pray for mercy.

Good Friday, Tenebrae Vespers, March 30, 7:00PM

This service of darkness includes several different psalms, expressing Jesus' loneliness on the cross, and yet it concludes on a hopeful note with the Song of Habakkuk.

Easter Vigil, March 31, 7:00PM

Our celebration of the resurrection begins with a new fire and a candlelit procession into the church. We hear the great stories of salvation and remember our baptism. The resurrection is announced, and we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Easter Sunday, April 1, 9:00AM

We continue to rejoice in the new life that Christ gives us through His victory over death and the grave.

Ladies Aid

On April 5th the ladies will be meeting at 6:30 PM to finalize plans for the April 28th Rummage/Bake Sale. The sale starts at 9:00 AM and will end at 2:00 PM with \$1.00 bag sale at 1:00 PM.

Set up will be April 26th from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM and on the 27th 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Any help is appreciated along with donations of household items and bakery. Hope to see you there.

Organ Dedication and Hymn Festival - May 6th

Finally! Our new organ is set to arrive in mid-April, and we will celebrate by dedicating the instrument and singing hymns on Sunday, May 6, beginning at 3:00p. Carl Lisius will be joined by several of our past substitute organists: Dan Anderson, Tim Degen, Karen Gustafson, Ruth Sievers, and Kevin Zorena, in leading our hymns, along with our choir and children's choir. Light refreshments will be served immediately following. This will be an excellent opportunity to invite friends to come visit our congregation.

Confirmation

As we celebrated Pentecost on May 20th, we will also celebrate the rite of Confirmation for Cheyenne Breitbarth and Katie Kampenga. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they prepare to confess their faith and are confirmed in that faith through the Holy Spirit.

Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS will run from June 11-15, 9:30a to noon each day. The students will learn about serving our neighbors as taught through the Ten Commandments. They will be doing service projects each day in coordination with various charities. We will be looking for helpers to assist with the program, as well as donations for refreshments and other supplies. For more information, see Amberleigh Birkholz.

Save the Date

Our annual church picnic is on June 10th at Wolfe Wildlife Refuge @ 109th and Laramie. It will begin at 11:30 AM and will end at 3:00 PM.

Watch for more details in the June Newsletter.

Schedule of April / May 2018 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Apr. Event</u>
1	7:00 AM	Easter Breakfast
	9:00 AM	Easter Sunday Worship / Communion
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
15	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
21	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
22	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
29	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class

Weekly Meetings

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

Hymn of the Month

April - "Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom" (# 481)

In the past few years, we have learned a number of Stephen Starke's contributions to our new hymnal, such as "Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying" and "Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses." This Easter hymn captures the joy of Christ's resurrection, as it is set to a French tune that dances along with it. I particularly love the use of the "sun" imagery in verse one, and the line "Life uneclipsed by doubt and dread: Christ has risen from the dead."

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>May Event</u>
5	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
6	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
13	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class
19	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
20	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 M	Sunday School / Bible Class
27	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School / Bible Class

Livestream and Recording

Thanks to a generous donation from Donna Beckett, we now have the capacity to video record our services and stream them online. We plan to begin streaming soon on the church's Facebook page:

(www.facebook.com/faithoaklawn)

and hope to have a YouTube channel operational shortly. You may also request a DVD of services that you miss. This is not meant as a substitute for coming to church, but a way to stay connected to us if you are ill or on vacation. It will also be a great way to introduce friends to our congregation. We will let you know when everything is up and running, and we will provide simple instructions on how to view the videos.

Hymn of the Month

May - "Voices Raised to You We Offer" (# 795)

This hymn will be the centerpiece of our Organ Dedication service, and so we will rejoice to sing it throughout the month of May. The first and last verses offer praise to the Lord, while the middle three verses directly address each person of the Trinity. We give thanks to God the Father as the "source of life," God the Son as the "Lord of life" and God the Holy Spirit as the "breath of life."

April / May 2018 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

April Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

April 1	Alden Ketchum Ed Neaves Mary Slepski Ray Bennett
April 8	Mike Kampenga Richard Clark Kenilynn Breitbarth Mark Trojanowski
April 15	Alden Ketchum Gene Osmanski Marilyn Diehl Sheila Kush
April 22	Mike Kampenga Ed Neaves Richard Clark Katie Kampenga
April 29	Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Cheyenne Breibarth Mark Trojanowski

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

April 1	Ray Benett
April 8	Mike Kampenga
April 15	Gene Osmanski
April 22	Debbie Hochgesang
April 29	Mark Trojanowski
May 6	Ed Neaves
May 13	Dora Haynes
May 20	Ray Bennett
May 27	Katie Kampenga

May Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

May 6	Alden Ketchum Mike Kampenga Mary Slepski Ray Bennett
May 13	Ed Neaves Richard Clark Sheila Kush Dora Haynes
May 20	Alden Ketchum Gene Osmanski Marilyn Diehl Katie Kampenga
May 27	Mike Kampenga Richard Clark Sarah Kampenga Rachel Kanpenga

Organ Dedication 3:00 PM

May 6	Ed Neaves Mary Slepski Marilyn Diehl
--------------	--

Ascension Day 7:00 PM

May 10	Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Ray Bennett Mark Trojanowski
---------------	---

