

FAITH NEWSLETTER

Aug. / Sept. 2019



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this to you, I am preparing to leave for our Synod's triennial convention; this year it is being held in Tampa. I will spend about a week praying, debating, and voting with and for other Missouri Synod Lutherans.

This convention's theme is "Joy:fully Lutheran." Here's what the Synod website says about the theme:

"Joy:fully Lutheran" is an expression of God's love for sinners. In love, God sent His Son as the sacrifice for sins. Salvation is given freely to all who believe by the work of the Spirit. This Good News creates joy in the hearts and lives of forgiven sinners, who stand as saints in Christ Jesus. To be Lutheran is to rejoice in God's free gift of salvation. The heart and soul of Lutheran teaching and belief is the love of God. The Gospel is the essence of being a Lutheran. God's free gift of salvation defines Lutherans and their faith. A Lutheran is a person who puts all of his or her faith and trust in Jesus alone. Lutherans do not rely on their own works or worthiness to earn God's love. Lutherans look to Jesus' death and resurrection as the fulfillment of God's promises to save His people and to forgive our sins. Jesus' death and resurrection promise eternal life for all who believe. God delivers His gifts of love and forgiveness through His Word proclaimed and read and through His Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through these means, God comes to sinners with His free gift of salvation.

Do you have joy in your life? Would you describe yourself as generally joyful? Or are you more often joyless? You cannot simply create joy in your life. It comes to you from the outside as the result of another person's kind and generous actions towards you.

True joy comes only from God and His gift of salvation. Because we are forgiven through the death and resurrection of Jesus, and because we are joined to Him in Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we have that gift of joy. If you see a lack of joy in your life, come and join us at church and receive the gift of joy from our gracious Lord.

His joy be with you always!

God's Blessings

Pastor Birkholz

In and Around Faith Church

Sunday School Kick - Off

Our Sunday School will resume on Sept 22nd. Following the lesson time at around 11:30 AM, we will have a cook-out at church, open to all members of the congregation. Watch for more information in the weeks to come.

Fall Bible Class

How does the Old Testament fit with our Christian faith? Is it a bunch of outdated rules and customs, or is it still important?

This fall we'll be digging into the Old Testament to learn more about understanding and applying these words of God to our 21st century life.

September Voters Meeting

Our September meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 15th. At that time we will open nominations for congregational officers for 2020. If you would like to run for office or nominate another member of the congregation, please see Ed Neaves.

A Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You came to seek and save the lost, and You have shown how great a sacrifice You were prepared to make for them to be children of your Father. We also were once lost, until You brought us to the waters of Baptism. Continue now to send Your disciples with Your Word, that it may reach to the ends of the earth and into our own communities and bear the fruit of repentance and faith. Amen.

From Portals of Prayer

Wednesday Services

We are currently evaluating our schedule for Wednesday evening prayer services. If you have any input on these services, please share it with the pastor or one of our elders.

Chili Cook - Off

Save the date! Our annual Chili Cook-off is scheduled for Saturday, October 19th. See if Ray Bennett will be able to successfully defend his title as Faith Chili Champion. This event is a fundraiser sponsored by the Trustees. Watch for more information in the coming weeks.

Hymns of the Month

August - "Earth and All Stars" (# 817)

This hymn was written for an anniversary of St. Olaf College in Minnesota. It is a paraphrase of Psalm 149, which calls upon all creation to "Sing to the Lord a new song!" The text was written by Herbert Brokering, who is a distant relative of mine. Brokering also wrote the words to "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen" (# 474), one of our favorite Easter hymns.

September - "Christ the Lord of Hosts, Unshaken" (# 521)

This year the feast day for St. Michael and Angels (Sept 29) falls on a Sunday, so we will use that opportunity to learn this hymn about angels. Rather than being cute and cuddly cherubs, angels are God's mighty warriors. This new hymn by Peter Prange (text) and Carl Schalk (music) tells the story of Jesus' victory over Satan, and how His angels continue to defend us today.

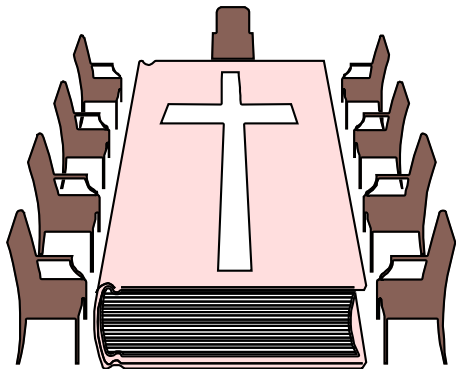
Schedule of Aug. / Sept. 2019 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Aug. Event</u>
3	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
4	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class for all.
11	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class for all.
17	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
18	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class for all.
25	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class for all.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Sept. Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class for all.
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class for all.
15	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class for all.
21	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
22	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class for all.
29	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Class for all.

Weekly Meetings

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



Aug. / Sept. 2019 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

Aug. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Aug. 4	Ed Neaves Mike Kampenga Mary Slepiski Cheyenne Breitbarth
Aug. 11	Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Kenilynn Breitbarth Marilyn Diehl
Aug. 18	Ed Neaves Mark Trojanowski Sheila Kush Ray Bennett
Aug. 25	Mike Kampenga Richard Clark Sarah Kampenga Rachel Kampenga

Sept. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

Sept. 1	Ed Neaves Mike Kampenga Katie Kampenga Ray Bennett
Sept. 8	Ed Neaves Mike Kampenga Ray Bennett Mary Slepiski
Sept. 15	Gene Osmanski Richard Clark Ray Bennett Dora Haynes
Sept. 22	Gene Osmanski Mike Kampenga Sheila Kush Katie Kampenga
Sept. 29	Richard Clark Ed Neaves Mark Trojanowski Ray Bennett

Lay Readers 9:00 AM Sunday

Aug. 4	Ed Neaves
Aug. 11	Mike Kampenga
Aug. 18	Katie Kampenga
Aug. 25	Ray Bennett
Sept. 1	Mark Trojanowski
Sept. 8	Angela Schillaci
Sept. 15	Ed Neaves
Sept. 22	Debbie Hochgesang
Sept. 29	Gene Osmanski

