

# FAITH NEWSLETTER

December 2019 / January 2020

---



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Happy New Year!

While the secular world begins the year on January 1, here in the church our year starts with Advent, which begins on December 1 this year.

As we enter a New Year, it's a time to start over again together as Christians and as a congregation.

Have you drifted away from Jesus, from His Word, from worshipping Him regularly, from receiving His body and blood in the Lord Supper? Now is the time to come back, and to start fresh and new.

Have you been looking for new opportunities to love and serve your neighbor? Check out some of the upcoming mission projects our congregation will be working on together.

Advent is about the coming of Jesus. There are three different ways that Jesus comes to us:

First, Jesus came as a baby born in Bethlehem many years ago. He was a human being just like you, and at the same time God Himself. Jesus lived a perfect life. He showed mercy and compassion to those in need. He gave up His life on the cross and rose again on Easter morning. Jesus ascended into heaven, back from whence He had come.

Second, Jesus comes among us through His Word and Sacrament. When the Holy Gospel is read, Jesus is speaking to you. When the Lord's Supper is celebrated, His body and blood are given to you. As we gather for worship in Jesus' name, He promises to be here with us.

Third, Jesus will come again in glory on the Last Day to judge the living and the dead. This will be a day to rejoice and give thanks, because Jesus will defeat our enemies of sin, death, and the devil once and for all. Our bodies will be raised, and we will be transformed to be like Jesus.

This Advent season I encourage you to listen once more to the story of Jesus' first coming among us, to come and receive Jesus as He comes to us in the Divine Service, and to prepare for His return on the Last Day.

In Jesus' Holy Name,

**Pastor Mark Birkholz**

# In and Around Faith Church

---

## Installation of Officers

All congregational officers will be installed on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. We will also thank the following outgoing officers for their service: Bob Green, Vice President; Alden Ketchum, Elder.

---

## Ladies Aid

Thank you to everyone who donated items, volunteered their time, and attended the fall bazaar. Your devotion and support made it a wonderful success and a great Christian social event.

---

## Missions of the Month

### December: Southside Pregnancy Center

Join us after our Advent Midweek Services on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> as we make fleece blankets for the new moms who visit the Pregnancy Center. These blankets are simple to make and we hope everyone can participate. We will also take a door offering for the Pregnancy Center on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### January: Faith Shut-ins

On Wednesday evenings in January we will be making St. Valentine's Day cards for our shut-ins and other members of the congregation.

---

## House Blessings

In Christian tradition, homes are blessed during the season of Epiphany to commemorate the visit of the Magi to Jesus' home in Bethlehem. This service involves readings and prayers in each room of the house, as we remember Jesus' promise to be with us and work through us in our homes. This year Epiphany lasts from January 6<sup>th</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to schedule a home blessing, please contact Pastor Birkholz.

## Member Appreciation

We will have a special potluck luncheon after church on January 26<sup>th</sup> to honor special anniversaries of membership that will be celebrated in 2020:

55 Years: Bill Lee

50 Years: Gene Osmanski

45 Years: Nikki Cejka and Mary Slepski

40 Years: Karen Robbins

15 Years: Arlene Banks

10 Years: Max Radosevich, Franny Rheinwald,  
Laura Zilinsky

5 Years: Nick Bieniek, Sean Bray, Dora  
Haynes, Jenn Welter

---

## Hymns of the Month

### December: "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring" (# 353)

This hymn was in TLH, was left out of LW, and made its way back into LSB. Written by the Anglican clergyman Godfrey Thring, it focuses on the coming of Jesus. The hymn begins with Jesus' first coming in humility to redeem us. The last three verses focus on His coming to us here and now, both in times of joy and sorrow.

### January: "Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star" (# 872)

Christian Knorr, Baron von Rosenroth was a 17th century German scholar. He studied philosophy and chemistry as well as theology. He was reputed to have memorized nearly the entire Bible. He also dabbled in Jewish mysticism, which he sought to harmonize with Christianity. Knorr wrote about 70 hymns. This composition connects the coming of Christ with the rising of the morning star, bringing us light and life.

---

## Christmas Cards

Please feel free to share a Christmas Card with the congregation by placing it on the special bulletin board at church.

# Schedule of Dec. 2019 / Jan. 2020 Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Dec. Event</u>
1	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Bible Class
7	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
8	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Bible Class
15	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Bible Class
21	9:00 AM	Food Pantry Distribution
22	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Bible Class
24	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship / Communion
25	9:00 AM	Christmas Worship / Communion
29	9:00 AM	Worship / Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Bible Class

## Advent

Midweek services will be held at 7:00 PM on the first three Wednesdays in December. Our theme for this year is "Mothers of Jesus." Each week we will take a look at two of the important women in Jesus' family tree:

- December 4 – Eve and Sarah, Mothers of Promise
- December 11 – Rahab and Ruth, Mothers from the Nations
- December 18 – Bathsheba and Mary, Mothers of the Son of David



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

## 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. - 7:00 PM
	Wed. - 10:00 AM
<b>Celebrate Recovery</b>	Tues. - 7:00 PM
<b>Girl Scouts</b>	Tues. - 7:00 PM
(Church Basement)	

## Sunday School Christmas Service

The Sunday School Students will be assisting with the first portion of our 9:00AM service on Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year's service is "Christmas Around the World." The children will sing Christmas carols from five continents while telling the story of Jesus' birth.

## Circuit Epiphany Service

This year St. Paul, Oak Lawn will host our area Epiphany service on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. Watch for more details.

# Dec. 2019 / Jan. 2020 Elders, Ushers & Lay Readers

---

## Dec. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Dec. 1</b>	Ed Neaves Rich Clark Mary Slepski Cheyenne Breitbarth
<b>Dec. 8</b>	Mike Kampenga Richard Clark Kenilynn Breitbarth Marilyn Diehl
<b>Dec. 15</b>	Ed Neaves Mark Trojanowski Sheila Kush Ray Bennett
<b>Dec. 22</b>	Mike Kampenga Richard Clark Sarah Kampenga Rachel Kampenga
<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> Es Neaves Mike Kampenga Mark Trojanowski Ray Bennett
<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> Richard Clark Gene Osmanski Mary Slepski Marilyn Diehl
<b>Dec. 29</b>	Gene Osmanski Ed Neaves Ray Bennett Mark Trojanowski

---

## Advent 7:00 PM

<b>Dec. 4</b>	Richard Clark Gene Osmanski
<b>Dec. 11</b>	Mike Kampenga Ed Neaves
<b>Dec. 18</b>	Richard Clark Gene Osmanski

---

## Jan. Worship 9:00 AM Sunday

<b>Jan. 5</b>	Richard Clark Mike Kampenga Marilyn Diehl Mary Slepski
<b>Jan. 12</b>	Gene Osmanski Ed Neaves Ray Bennett Dora Haynes
<b>Jan. 19</b>	Richard Clark Mike Kampenga Sheila Kush Katie Kampenga
<b>Jan. 26</b>	Ed Neaves Gene Osmanski Mark Trojanski Ray Bennett

---

## Lay Readers

<b>Dec. 1</b>	Ed Neaves
<b>Dec. 8</b>	Mike Kampenga
<b>Dec. 15</b>	Katie Kampenga
<b>Dec. 22</b>	Ray Bennett
<b>Dec. 29</b>	Mark Trojanowski
<b>Jan. 5</b>	Angela Schillaci
<b>Jan. 12</b>	Gene Osmanski
<b>Jan. 19</b>	Debbie Hochgesang
<b>Jan. 26</b>	Ray Bennett

---

## From Bob Green

Dear Members of Faith,

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Vice-President of our congregation. I have decided to step down from this position in order to give others an opportunity to serve. I know that God will continue to bless us through our Lord Jesus Christ.