

May 2009

Faith, Family & Fellowship

The monthly newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church



From the Pastor's desk

Recently the Council had a retreat. St. Edward and Christ Episcopal Church purchased land with a beautiful farmhouse, barn and several other buildings. A few months ago Pastor Katharine and I drove out there to share a meal. They are graciously sharing the property with other congregations as a retreat center. And so, on Saturday, March 14th, several council members and I utilized that space for our time together for relaxation, reflection and leadership training. I think everyone who went would agree, it truly was a beautiful setting.

The main focus of our efforts was to develop a model in chart form of the various ministries offered here at Faith Lutheran. We also listed the names of those responsible for all the various areas so we could better take a look at the vast number of persons involved in leadership. Ideally, leadership should be spread out amongst our membership so we can best utilize the gifts and talents that God has provided in the congregation as a whole. We can then also better see those areas where too much weight is on one person to, hopefully, avoid burdensome "burn-out". Another interesting dimension to the chart is it enabled us to see where we were thriving in ministry, as well as pin-pointing areas where we were weak.

Here are a few findings. On the fifty different areas of ministry that we do here at Faith (YES... I did say 50!) the leadership is pretty well dispersed. In a few areas, we could do a little better; however of the 50 areas – 31 different people took part in the leadership (we're talking about the leader of the group, not the committee members which is a vastly more significant number). We're moving in the right direction with that. Also, of the 50 areas, only five can be defined as weak and in need of leadership and efforts toward improvement.

We also pin-pointed ONE AREA that we are doing in a variety of small ways; but, that we would like to tackle in a LARGE way. That is the area of Evangelism. Together, the council brainstormed several possibilities and at our most recent council meeting several persons committed themselves to this goal. So, I believe you will be hearing more about this topic in the very near future. Please don't hesitate to bring your thoughts on evangelism to myself or other members of the council.

Having just gone through Lent, Holy Week and Easter I am so thankful for all of you who helped and participated in the many events here at church... Ash Wednesday services, the soup suppers and evening vesper worship, the Ministry Fair, New Members class and Sunday, Palm Sunday, the Seder meal on Maundy Thursday as well as the worship service, Good Friday prayer vigil hosts and prayers, Good Friday speakers, musicians, the altar guild, those who provided the beautiful sanctuary floral and decorative arrangements on Easter Sunday, the youth activities, and all who assisted with the services of worship, Easter Breakfast, first Communicants and their families... and all who continue to support and invest themselves in the life of this congregation. The church is the people... it is YOU... and I am so thankful for every one of you!

God's blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Jane".

Rev. Jane Perkolup, Pastor
Vicki Dallmann, Secretary/Newsletter Editor

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815-725-4213
Office hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9-1

OUR MISSION: *Sharing the Love of God*

OUR VISION GOALS: *Feed the Hungry ~ Connect with New Neighbors ~ Grow Caring Relationships ~ Engage Adults in Christian Education*

SERVICE COMMITTEE NEWS

The Easter Breakfast was a huge success! We must have served about 125 people. A big THANK YOU to all who donated food, helped with the set-up on Saturday preparing casseroles, decorating tables, etc. Also, many thanks to those who helped on Sunday, cooking, serving, cleaning up.

Here are a few things to note on your calendar:

- Service Committee Meeting is May 6th at 12:30 p.m. at the church.
- Potluck lunch will be May 13 at noon, with Carol Vicic as our speaker.
- Looking a ways ahead to our June Potluck (June 10), we will have Rhonda Sykes, Executive Director of Lamb's Fold, to speak about their ministry.



One final reminder... Sunday, May 3 is the **MS Walk** at Dellwood Park. Heather Mendelson & Jackie Marks are walking. If you would like to join the group or sponsor a walker, please see Jackie Marks.

Thank you,

Joann Smothers, Service Committee Chair

Property Committee News



The cartridge recycling program has gotten off to a good start. We received \$31 for the first batch we sent in. I will be doing my spring walk-around to make a list of things that need attention. If you know of anything that needs work please let me know and I will add it to my list.

Please plan to attend Church Cleanup Day on May 9 from 9-3.

Thank you,

Dennis Cannon, Property Chair

Gleaning God's Harvest

Your *Gleaning God's Harvest* Committee would like to thank all of you who continue to participate in our ongoing scrip card program. Testimonials from a variety of participants reinforce how easy it is to use your purchased scrip cards at the scores of retailers in the greater Joliet area. Here are some examples:

"It is nice to know that Faith Church gets a monetary rebate back on every card I purchase, and I still get full dollar value on the card I purchased."

"This is one additional way I can help the Church meet its daily expenses, and it doesn't cost me one extra dime."

"If I buy a \$25 scrip card, the scrip card is like having \$25 cash to use at my favorite retailer. Yet the Church still gets a rebate! Everybody wins!"

"I can't afford to increase my weekly pledge right now, but I can purchase weekly scrip cards, which allows the Church to receive money back from the retailer."

Well, this list of testimonials could go on and on, but you get the point. The *GGH* program has now generated over \$1000 in rebates for our congregation, funds that are very much needed to carry on God's work to both our congregation and our community.

Please stop by our *GGH* table, which is set up in Lippold Hall each and every Sunday during coffee hour and in the narthex before 2nd service. A committee member will be glad to answer any questions you may have, and by the way, if some of you were not aware, Ultra Foods has now been added to our list of participating retailers.

-Bill Niswonger

THIS GLORIOUS EASTERTIDE

So Easter is over now – or is it? Surely you are done with colored eggs, stuffed plush bunnies, baskets of fake straw, lamb-shaped cakes covered with coconut wool, and all of the other familiar objects associated with Easter. As a small child, I had the Easter baskets and the other goodies, but it didn't seem to make much sense until I started going to Sunday School. Aha! The Resurrection. That's what it's really about. Easter without the risen Christ is nothing more than a pagan rite of spring, and spring will come whether we celebrate it or not. Some writers have even dreaded the spring, because it wakes us from our pleasant winter sleep. The poet T. S. Eliot wrote: "April is the cruellest month, breeding/Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing/Memory and desire, stirring/Dull roots with spring rain." (The Waste Land, 1922)

In about fifth or sixth grade, when instructed to "draw or paint something about Easter," while my classmates did the obligatory eggs and bunnies, I tried to paint a Crucifixion scene. My "masterpiece" wasn't very good, and it rather befuddled my classmates, many of whom weren't even Christians, but it expressed my personal view of the season. The point I want to make is that Easter can be both painful and beautiful -- painful because of the torture Christ endured, and beautiful because of the Resurrection; painful, because we know the risen Christ will leave us for a while; and beautiful, because the risen Lord has awe-inspiring powers.

And Easter isn't officially over! In the Lutheran Church, each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost is treated as a "Sunday of Easter." In fact, after Easter Sunday, we get six more Sundays of Easter, in which the lessons tell us of the deeds of Jesus and the Disciples after the Resurrection, up to the time of the Ascension.

The Second Sunday of Easter, which will have come and gone before you read this, was once called "Low Sunday," but our Roman Catholic brethren now call it "Divine Mercy Sunday" to commemorate a saint's vision of Jesus promising extraordinary forgiveness on the Second Sunday of Easter. Meanwhile, the Eastern Orthodox Christians honor St. Thomas on that day, as he was the one who beheld Christ's wounds when He appeared in the closed room.

We are following mainly the Gospel of John this year, so you can read it in your Bible (John, Chapters 20-21) or follow it in one of the new pew Bibles. In the Sundays of Easter, Jesus appears to the Disciples on several occasions and even goes fishing with them, helping them to net an unusually large catch of fish. He feeds them, then indicates that He wants them to minister to others.

The Ascension of our Lord is celebrated on May 21st. There is another Sunday of Easter after that, then on May 31 we observe Pentecost, the birthday of the Christian Church and the end of the Easter season. Help us to finish Eastertide together. If you found April a cruel awakening, by now you should be ready for the sweetness and promise of May. Happy Easter!

Charles R. Wolf
Chair, Worship Committee





ADELINE LIPPOLDT'S 100th BIRTHDAY

On June 5th Mrs. Lippoldt will be celebrating her 100th birthday! (For those of you who are not familiar, Mrs. Lippoldt is the widow of our founding Pastor.) We would like to do something special for this terrific lady. We are looking for help and any ideas that you may have that we could do for her. Chris Bowen is video-taping and taking pictures around church during Coffee Hour, Sunday School, meetings, etc. to send to her. The council is planning a large birthday card for everyone to sign, and the Prayer Blanket Ministry is working on a gift. If you have any old pictures or gift ideas, please contact Jackie Marks of the Service Committee.

Thank you! -Jackie Marks, 815-467-4094




POT LUCK
Potluck
May 13
noon

**Confirmation Sunday
on Pentecost
May 31st
Wear red!**



Memorial Gift of Pew Bibles

On Sunday, April 19 we dedicated a most generous gift of pew Bibles in memory of Rita L. (Lauterbach) Schlueter and Fred R. & Lillian J. Lauterbach. The pew Bibles serve a dual purpose. Should you want to look up something or read from the NIV paperback Bible, they will always be available in the pews. Secondly, should someone come to our service who does not have a Bible they are invited to take a pew Bible as our gift. This is one way we can help spread the Word of God to others. We received a gift of \$1,000 to cover the cost.

Additionally, as we have several members who need large print, there will be one large print hardcover NIV Bible in each pew. These are, however, very expensive and must remain in the church pews.

The gift also covered the cost of a couple of cases of replacement Bibles, so we can carry on this very important ministry well into the future! Praise God and our generous steward of Jesus Christ for this most wonderful gift!

Annual Meeting
Council & Endowment
elections
June 14
9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Class of 2009
"Honor our Graduates"

Please notify the office if you have a student graduating from high school or college. We would like to invite them to a special service in their honor on Sunday, June 7.



Annual Northern Illinois Synod Assembly
Voting delegates representing Faith Lutheran for this year's Synod Assembly on June 19 & 20 at Augustana College in Rock Island are Bonnie Badurski, Kyle Severson and Pastor Jane.

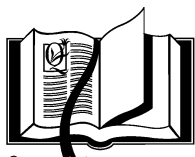


Attention Men of Faith

*The Men's Breakfast will be on
Saturday, May 16 from 8-10 a.m.*

*Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex the preceding Sunday
so we can make sure there's enough food for everyone.*

Be there, and bring a friend!



Our study continues...

Join us for Bible Study
Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Over the years members have donated various computers and parts, however, due to new technology they have out-lived their usability. If you are one of the generous donors and would like your computer back, please make arrangements with Vicki in the office to pick it up by May 30th. Otherwise, they will be recycled appropriately. Thank you!





Happy Mother's Day on May 10



Congratulations to the following young people for completing the First Communion Class and for taking their First Communion here at Faith Lutheran on Easter Sunday:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Tor Chaleunphonh | Jeremiah Davila |
| Christina Dowd | Olivia Eggert |
| Anthony Pesavento | |

Going to College?

It's time to apply for a scholarship for financial needs.

Reminder to all college age students and/or parents: applications (general studies, nursing or seminarian) are on the shelf below the council minutes in the narthex. Applications need to be returned to Vicki in the office by Monday, June 1, 2009.

Evening Vespers / Potluck

Mark your calendars for Tuesday evening, May 19, when we resume our evening vespers in English/Spanish with our friends from First Lutheran and Santa Cruz. Following the brief service, we will gather together for a shared potluck meal. We will be alternating meeting locations, with this first meeting taking place at First Lutheran Church.

Shining Stars of Faith

Do you have anything that has happened in your life that you would like to share with your family of friends and believers here at Faith? We would all like to know about your accomplishments and share that joy with you! We would also like this to be an opportunity to share invitations to special events or projects that involve the entire church. Please bring your items or article to the office and we will place it on our Shining Stars of Faith bulletin board and help you celebrate! If you have any questions, please call Shari Johnson at 815-725-2501.

Lutheran Day, May 6 - Here We Stand

Join Lutherans in the state capitol on May 6th. Have the opportunity to build relationships with public officials and one another, as well as demonstrate Lutherans' involvement in their communities as citizens and leaders of charitable organizations meeting human needs. For more information, contact Lutheran Day Coordinator at:

Stephen.taylor@lssi.org
or call 847-635-4653

Confirmation - May 31st 8:30 a.m. service



The following young people have completed two years of study and will affirm their Baptisms becoming adult members of the congregation:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Cory Alonso | Alexa Bowen |
| Heather Mendelson | Jaymz Pritchett |

2009 Flower and Sanctuary Candles

Please choose some dates that are significant occasions in your life to share your remembrances and beautify our sanctuary for worship. Let's share our blessings!

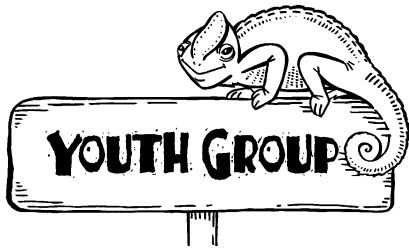
PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

-The Serenity Prayer

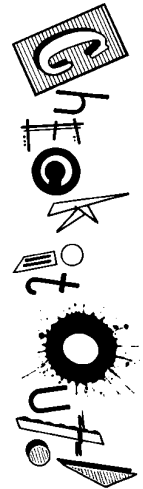


If you know of someone who you think would like a prayer blanket, or if you would like to participate in this very worthwhile ministry, please contact Joyce Reed 725-5540, Jackie Marks 467-4094 or Carol Vicic 254-6711.




DYNAMOS
Our 1st thru 4th graders will meet on Thursday, May 21 from 6-7:30 p.m. We will be playing games and enjoying a snack together. I hope to see many of you come out for the fun!


GUPPIES
Our preschool and kindergarten youth will meet this month on Saturday, May 23 from 10 a.m. to noon. We will be making crafts, playing games, and enjoying a snack together. We would love to have you join us! Parents are always welcome.



Mark your calendar for VBS, July 20-24th from 5:30-8pm. Plans are in the making, but we still need a Director. Please call Chris Bowen at 815-725-6600 if you would consider helping in any way.



Overnight Lock-In
May 16 - 17



Our **BLAST** (5th-8th grade) and **HIGH SCHOOL HAPPENING** groups will combine for an overnight lock-in at church on May 16. Please plan to arrive at 7pm on the 16th. All youth will be required to stay on Sunday morning until coffee hour cleanup is done (usually around 11am).

All youth are required to bring a signed permission slip (available on the bulletin board) and \$5.00 or a snack to share. Further info will be available on the permission slip.

This will be our **LAST YOUTH EVENT** for a while since we will be taking a break for the summer...
So join us for the fun! Bring your friends!
Parents are always welcome, too!



YARD SALE - JUNE 27 8am to 4 pm & JUNE 28 noon to 4pm

The time is quickly approaching for our 4th annual Yard Sale here at Faith Lutheran! Now is the time to begin thinking about turning your trash into treasure. Do you have any items that are still in good shape that you are no longer using at home? This is the perfect reason to clean the garage, attic, or maybe to un-clutter a closet!

The more help we can muster, the bigger success it will be. There are many ways for you to contribute. We will need your resalable treasures and your time and energy, along with everyone's prayers. We will be able to have extended hours for drop-off of items since we will be using the Sunday School rooms for storage. Items can be brought to the church during normal office hours, or between 10-3 on Saturday, June 13 or June 20.

Those of you who need items picked-up, please let the church office know and we will make arrangements for someone to come by. Also, we will be having pricing parties on June 17 at 6pm, June 19 at 10am, June 24 at 6pm, and June 26 at 10am. As the date nears, please look in the narthex for volunteer sign up sheets. Again, **thank you** for your enthusiasm and commitment. Questions, please call Shari Johnson at 815-725-2501.

Pastoral Acts

First Communion, April 12th - Tor Chaleunphonh, Jeremiah Davila, Christina Dowd, Olivia Eggert, Anthony Pesavento

Baptism, April 19th - Benjamin Roy Hornsby, son of Chad and Rachel Hornsby.



Thank you St. Paul's Catholic Church for the gift of a chasuble for our pastor to wear on special Sundays, and to Jackie Marks for making the necessary alterations.

Young Family Ministry Spring Fling

Come for an afternoon of family fun on Saturday, May 16 from 1-3pm. Bring the whole family! We'll enjoy a picnic lunch with lots of fun activities for all! Sign up on the chart in the narthex or call the church office with your RSVP so we can be sure to prepare enough food for everyone! For more info, call Sandy at 815-725-2511 or Rachel at 815-712-8075. Hope to see you there!

Spring Cleanup Day

Get your spouse and kids, grab your rakes, buckets and cleaners, and come on over to church on Saturday, May 9 from 9-3. We need your help to spruce up the church and grounds. Here's a chance for those of all ages and abilities to participate in the stewardship of our beautiful church that God has so generously provided. Lunch will be served to all workers at noon.



Life is fragile- handle with prayer...
To start up the Prayer Telephone Machine, call Elsie at 725-4373 or go to www.faithjoliet.com

With sincere apologies, it has come to our attention that the following birthdays were inadvertently omitted from the April Newsletter:

Charles Wolf (04/01) Jackie Marks (04/05)
Travis Pollard (04/05)



We are aware of the following members of Faith Lutheran Church having birthdays in May.

GOD BLESS YOU as you recall the day God first gave you life!

If your birthday is omitted or incorrectly recorded, please let us know.

05/01 Elaine Kane	05/07 Mary Lauterbach	05/16 Leona Hayes	05/27 Marilyn Klotz
Michael Burroughs	05/09 Hazel Gariboldi	05/18 Taylor Farr	Edward Koseck
05/02 Robert Carlson	05/10 Brittany Suski	05/23 William Koenig	Rylan Johnson
Kimberly Lovati	05/11 Irene Macak	Amy Ogrizovich	05/28 Marcia Johnson
Anne Martin	05/14 Rita Kooi	05/24 Karl Watson	05/29 Aaron Champene
05/04 Nathan Hambrick	Richard Schmitz	Trey Martin	05/31 Briana Budny
05/05 Joy Fowler	05/15 Carol Luthanen	05/25 Diane Juell	
Dianna Bierman			