

FAITH *In Focus*



Engaging the Word...Impacting the World

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WELCOME TO FAITH!

From Pastor Tom's Desk...

I've noticed that some people seem to be uncomfortable with the word "church." They'd rather talk about the "Body" or perhaps the "fellowship of believers." I admit this aversion might be the result of our misuse of the word "church." We have often equated it with the building where we meet, or the organizational structure that we join. Admittedly, neither of these ideas fits the Biblical definition of "church."

However, "church" is a Biblical term. Jesus used the word only a couple of times, but He did use it. Paul uses it several times in his letters. It comes from the Greek word "ekklesia," which means "called out." As Christians we are called out of the world's culture to live in the culture of the Kingdom of God. The church, Biblically speaking, is the body of believers who are called of God to represent Christ and pursue His mission in the world. We are indeed His "body," giving tangible expression to His presence in the world.

One of the serious problems the church faces today is conformity to the world's culture. We have become so much like the world in our values and lifestyle that non-believers don't see any difference that Christ has made in our lives. Because we think and act like them, they don't experience the tangible presence of Christ through us. This produces the image that the church is just another

organization—not unlike the Kiwanis or Athletic Boosters. People join the church, they think, simply to become a part of a social organization.

In reality, the main purpose of the church is to accomplish the mission of Jesus Christ. The church must be in a group of people who are *in Christ* (identity) and who *live for Christ* (mission.) We exist for the glory of Christ and the advancement of His Kingdom. When we fail to fulfill this mission, it shouldn't surprise us that non-believers misunderstand what the church is about.

At one point Jesus asked his disciples, "Who are people saying that I am?" After exploring some other options, Peter declared, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" And Jesus said to him, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it!" The identity and the mission of the church are centered in Jesus Christ. We are indeed His people representing His presence in the world.

So don't be afraid of the word, "church," but use it accurately. We are His people—on His mission—for His glory!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tom

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Don't miss your opportunity to help with our annual Vacation Bible School—Expedition Norway! This is a cross-cultural VBS, helping kids see an exciting world of faith beyond their own backyard!



This year's VBS will be Sunday, July 17, through Thursday, July 20, from 6:30–8:45 p.m. We need your help with lots of things... Volunteering beforehand to help with decorations and/or volunteering during VBS as helpers and leaders.

WE NEED YOUR HELP in this outreach ministry! Don't miss out on the blessings of Vacation Bible School! Contact Gina Tangeman (567-644-9313) or gina@faith-alliance.org for more information or to volunteer.

If you haven't registered the children in your life for VBS, it's not too late! Just go to the church website, www.faitn-alliance.org. Click on "Ministries" and highlight the "Children" tab. The VBS registration form will be on the right sidebar. All children ages 3 through entering grade 5 are welcome!

Current Prayer Concerns...

- Students and adults going to LIFE Conference this week
- Joann Boyer, recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Heidi Siebenaler, upcoming MRI
- Becky Dock, severe knee pain
- Linda & Bill Shipman's daughter Sherry, lump under arm
- Kristin Lampert's uncle, John, preparing for a bone marrow transplant
- Jay Berkey, recovering from surgery for brain tumor
- Bethany Schrader, herniated disk, significant pain
- Cierra Otting, now in Libreville, Gabon, for six months
- Brenda Dudek, cousin of Andrea Ball, undiagnosed illness

New Sermon Series...

Over the next several weeks, Pastor Trent and Tom will be preaching a series of messages on the character and purpose of the Church. Messages in the series will address God's plan for equipping the church for ministry, the purpose of the church, the role of elders and deacons, and the mission of the church.

As a part of our transition plan, Pastor Trent will begin to preach every other Sunday. Please pray for our preaching pastors as they prepare these messages.

"Risen" Movie Available...

The recently released movie, "Risen," is the fictionalized story of one soldier's search for the risen Christ. You will find this movie both authentic and inspiring. Mike and Heidi Siebenaler have graciously purchased a copy for church library. It is available for you to borrow. The library is in the far back corner of the sanctuary.

Missions Gift...

The Governing Board recently approved a gift of \$2,000 for the E-4 Project to serve as a down-payment for a car for Pastor Jacob. Jacob is the leader of our partner ministries in Gabon. He oversees the PK-27 project, the Hope House ministry, and the Hands of Grace sewing ministry. When our team goes to Gabon at the end of the month, they will be assisting with all of these ministries.

Backpack Program...

Once again New Bremen Churches are partnering to assist families who may find it difficult to afford all the school supplies for their kids. The "Backpack" back to school program will supply a backpack with all needed school supplies for the new school year.



Faith Alliance has 9 to fill this next month; 1) fifth grade, 3) sixth grade, 2) seventh grade, 2) eighth grade and 1) extra bag.

Please see the "School Bus" display in the foyer and pull a tag to purchase items to help fulfill this need or make a monetary donation stating "Backpacks" on your check or envelope!
Thank you!

Dear Faith Family,

Thank you for helping me celebrate my retirement last Sunday. The kind well-wishes, love offering, beautiful mantel clock and reception made me feel loved and appreciated.

I am thankful I was able to work and have a ministry at Faith Alliance for so many years. I am now looking forward to retirement and wish Jenny and Kristin many blessings in their new ministries at Faith Alliance.

Marty Tangeman

Dear Faith Family,

We feel so blessed by the amount of meals, cards, and show of support as we welcomed home our newest son, Casen. We are so thankful for the countless meals our church family has provided through this transition. Thank you for your continued prayer and support for our family.

Love,

The Cedarleaf family

Financial Report

Offering June 26, 2016

General Fund: \$6,397

Local Mission: \$192

Great Commission: \$900

Building Fund: \$45

Kitchen Fund: \$10

Youth Center: \$10

Tea House: \$10

Hope House: \$50

Joel Meyer: \$30

Attendance

Week of June 26, 2016

9:00 Worship—74

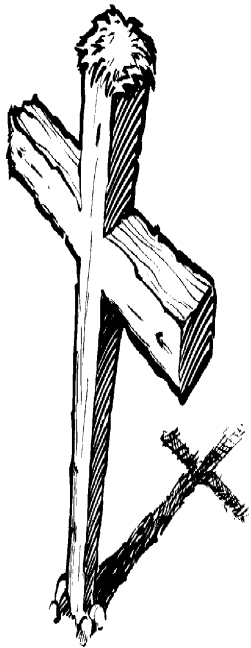
10:30 Worship—118

Kids—48; Adult Workers—11

Total Worship—258

International Class—9

RENEW



MINISTRIES



Sunday, July 3, 2016

Today

9:00... Early Service

10:30... Late Service

12:00...LIFE Meeting

This Week

Tuesday-Sunday...LIFE Conference

Wednesday... NO YOUTH GROUP

COMING EVENTS

July 5–10 ...LIFE Conference

July 16 ...Creation/Ark Museum

July 20 ...Canoe Trip

*If you have any
encouragement
from being united
with Christ, if
any comfort from
his love, if any
fellowship with
the Spirit, if any
tenderness and
compassion, then
make my*

joy

*complete by being
like-minded, having
the same love,
being one in spirit
and purpose. Do
nothing out of selfish
ambition or vain
conceit, but in
humility consider
others better than
yourself.*

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-3
